



MARCH MONTHLY REPORT No. 03/2010

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 March – 31 March 2010
Reporting Date	31 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 Analytical Department, as the secretariat of the AC Coordination Council 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 the office of the Analytical Department, Ministry of Justice of Georgia on 25 March 2010.</p> <p>The Project's Short-term Advisor, Ms. Marijana Trivunovic made a presentation and led the discussion on indicators and reporting tools for the Anti-Corruption Strategy, using examples and good practices from other countries, but also Georgian examples, such as the national Criminal Justice Reform implementation plan. The participants were particularly interested in the process of determining meaningful (SMART) indicators, and the discussion focused on the challenges inherent in identifying appropriate indicators supported by data sources and setting benchmarks. All relevant workshop materials were distributed.</p>
Follow up	Completed
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 that would be incorporated in the training curriculum of the Ministry of Justice

Outcome	The Training Centre of Ministry of Justice finalized and approved the list of topics within specialized training module and elaborated the budget for conducting the initial in-service training. A timeline was agreed for developing the detailed lesson plans and related training materials: this would be October 2010 in view of the extensive training on the new criminal procedure code currently underway. The GEPAC project supported the elaboration of model lesson plan and training materials by a national consultant on one of the new topics that will be covered (whistle-blower protection). The possible date for conducting the first in-service specialised training was indicated as October/November 2010.
Follow-up	Completed
Activity	Up to 2 study visits for representatives of specialised units to European counterpart institution
Output Reference	Activity 4.4
Aim	To raise awareness of representatives of specialized units on anti-corruption related issues at the European counterpart institution
Outcome	<p>Six participants were identified for the study visit in Ljubljana, Slovenia to the Commission for Prevention of Corruption in Slovenia (CPC), the Group of State Prosecutors for the Prevention of Organised Crime, the National Bureau of Investigation of Slovenia, and the Ministry of Justice. The participants were from the following institutions: the Analytical Department (Secretariat of the Anti-corruption Coordination Council), the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Chancellery of Government of Georgia. The visit was hosted by the CPC, which was the main counterpart.</p> <p>The participants heard presentation from the Head of CPC, Mr. Drago Kos, who spoke about the creation and work specifics of the Commission. The further presentations were made on the Resolution of the Prevention of Corruption in Slovenia (AC Strategy of Slovenia) along with the preparation of the Action Plan for the implementation of it. Other topics covered the investigation/prosecution of the corruption cases which included a presentation from the guest speaker, Deputy Head of USKOK (Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organise Crime in Croatia), Ms. Natasa Durovic. The sessions were quite interactive, with participants introducing numerous questions, comments and comparisons from the Georgian legislation and practice.</p>
Follow-up	Completed
CURRENT AND ANTICIPATED PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PLANNED REMEDIAL ACTIONS	
<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>Output 5 – Integrity and institutional capacity for preventing corruption at the General Prosecutor's Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity 5.3 – Training to improve the ability of tax inspectors to detect corruption offences, in particular as regards bribes concealed as legitimate expenses <p>The GEPAC project team identified and contacted recognised experts to undertake the above mentioned trainings. Despite strong interest in co-operation with the Council of Europe and Georgian authorities, the experts were not available within the lifetime of the GEPAC project. Therefore, it was impossible to realise these activities.</p>	
OTHER DEVELOPMENTS	
<p><u>Analytical Department Human Resources challenges:</u> Following past discussions with the GEPAC project team on the need for dedicated human resources to work on anti-corruption issues (i.e. as the Secretariat of the AC Coordination</p>	

Council), the GEPAC team was informed that a new dedicated position has indeed been secured. The HR Department of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia made an announcement on the position of legal specialist who will be responsible for the anti-corruption related activities within the Analytical Department. The short-listed candidates were invited for the interview at the end of March. It was anticipated that a new staff member would be appointed with the Analytical Department within weeks, with the principal task of supporting the AC Coordination Council in the development of and oversight of the implementation of the anti-corruption strategy implementation plan..

AC Strategy finalisation: The AC Strategy is at the stage of finalization. All recent comments/suggestions received were integrated and a revised version was sent to the members of the AC Coordination Council for final review and approval.

GEPAC closing event: The GEPAC closing event took place on 26 March 2010 at the Marriott Hotel in Tbilisi. Mr Vakhtang Lejava, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr Heino van Houwelingen, Counsellor /DHM, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ms Ardita Abdiu, Head of Corruption and Fraud Unit, Council of Europe and Ms Marijana Trivunovic, Project Advisor, Council of Europe Expert addressed the closing event. The speeches included information on the GEPAC project implementation, completed activities, and the status of the main project outputs (e.g. national AC Strategy). The presentation also included findings of the two surveys undertaken during GEPAC: perceptions of corruption in Georgia among the general public and among public officials. The representatives of various state institutions, non-governmental organisations as well as other donors operating in the Country attended to the closing event. The media was also present.

Evaluation: Mr Tilman Hoppe, the independent external evaluator was engaged in order to assess the GEPAC project. Mr Hoppe met the Project Management Team and the previous Project Officers in Strasbourg, along with the representatives of the Donor organisation, the main counterpart institution and the Project Team (including the local project officer and national and international advisers) in Tbilisi. He also held meetings with the previous national Long-term Advisor, national short-term experts, participants of the training events and others involved in the project implementation.