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Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Georgia (GEPAC)

CoE Project No. 2007/DGI/VC/779

4th Narrative Progress Report

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The views expressed in this technical report
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of the Council of Europe or of the donor
funding this project.

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1 Summary description

GEPAC - "Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Georgia" - started on 1 September 2007. The present report summarises the activities carried out during the second reporting period, from 1 March 2009 to 31 August 2009.

1.1 Beneficiary Country and institution(s)

The project country is Georgia.

The main project partner on the Georgian side is the Chancellery of the Government of Georgia, appointed as the main counterpart institution in July 2008; a result of the initial main counterpart institution, the State Ministry on Reforms Coordination, having been dissolved in February 2008.

On 26 December 2008, the Presidential Decree N°622 established the Coordination Council for Fighting Against Corruption (See Annex 6).

Project beneficiaries also include:

the Coordination Council for Fighting against Corruption (Outputs 1 & 2)
the General Prosecutor's Office (Outputs 4 & 5)
the Ministry of Interior (Outputs 4 & 5)

1.2 Contracting authority

Ministry for Development Co-operation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

1.3 Implementing organisation

The Council of Europe is responsible for the implementation of the project and the use of the project funds under the contract with the Ministry for Development Co-operation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Within the General Secretariat of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, the Economic Crime Division (Technical Co-operation Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs) is responsible for overall management and supervision of the project. A Local Project Team, composed originally of three Long-term National Advisers, two Non-term National Advisers since December 2008 and one Local Project Officer, based in the premises of the State Chancellery in Tbilisi, is supporting the implementation of the project.

1.4 Project objective

The overall objective of GEPAC is to contribute to fostering democracy and the rule of law through the prevention and control of corruption in Georgia, in accordance with relevant European and other international standards, including GRECO recommendations.

2 The project

2.1 Country situation

Georgia is a member of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) since 16 September 1999, and has signed and ratified the Civil Law and the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption of the Council of Europe.

Furthermore, Georgia is a party to the Council of Europe's mechanisms monitoring compliance with international standards in the field of money laundering, MONEYVAL.

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 of 24 June 2005.

The "Action Plan for the Anti-corruption Strategy (2005-2006)" was drafted by a working group led by the then 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. Until its dissolution in February 2008, the State Minister for Reforms Coordination was empowered with supervising the implementation of the Action Plan.

A new draft of the Anti-corruption Strategy was also elaborated by the Office of the State Minister on Reforms Coordination in 2007, but has not been adopted yet.

In addition, Georgia continues to be an active member country in the Anti-corruption Network (ACN) for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, coordinated by the OECD Anti-Corruption Division, and participates in the ACN's Istanbul Action Plan. In this framework, Georgia has been providing its Progress Reporting on the Monitoring of the National Actions to Implement Recommendations endorsed during Reviews of Legal and Institutional Frameworks for the Fight against Corruption. The 7th General Meeting of the ACN took place in Tbilisi on 25-27 June 2008, where Georgian Government emphasized the reforms that took place in licensing, reforming the health care sector, and in improving the investment climate in general in the country. The reforms that took place in the Ministry of Interior, in particular the reform in the patrol police and the ongoing reform in the criminal police and on criminal justice matters were also discussed.

According to recent surveys and studies, corruption and conflicts of interest are reported to be widespread, and integrity to be weak in most State and public bodies. People believe that corruption – in different forms as bribes, corrupt lobbying, trading in influence, abuse of office, and other – is a common practice in everyday life. Although improvements have certainly taken place, sustainable measures should be implemented for a lasting effect on the corruption situation. For that reason, anti-corruption measures have been high on the agenda of the Georgian Government for the past years. GEPAC was therefore launched to provide necessary expertise, and to contribute to the actual implementation of

relevant reforms during 2007, 2008, and 2009. It aims at strengthening the Georgian institutions' capacities in their anti-corruption efforts, through the implementation of the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan, and in promoting technical co-operation among different law-enforcement and prevention services.

2.2 Project objective

GEPAC aims at strengthening national capacities in support of the implementation of Georgia's Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan, in compliance with relevant European and international standards. In order to achieve this objective, the project works in five complementary directions:

- Strengthening the capacities of the anti-corruption policy institutions in order to manage, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the Anti-corruption Action Plan;
- Co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Anti-corruption Action Plan through reviewing the Anti-corruption Strategy and up-dating the Action Plan;
- Elaborating and improving primary and secondary legislation concerning criminalisation and prevention of corruption;
- Strengthening the capacities of the prosecution to investigate and prosecute high-level corruption; and
- Introducing pilot activities to enhance integrity and institutional capacities as tools for the prevention of corruption.

2.3 Project team

In Strasbourg, the Corruption and Fraud unit of the Economic Crime and Information Society Department of the Directorate of Co-operation of the Directorate of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe is in charge on daily basis of the overall management and supervision of the project implementation and to report on behalf of the Council of Europe on the implementation and delivery of the project's activities. Ms Ilknur Yuksek, GEPAC Project Manager, is dealing with every day management of project activities.

In Tbilisi, Ms Tamara Katsitadze is the Local Project Officer. Previous GEPAC national Long Term Advisor, Mr Givi Kutidze, left the project on 14 September 2009. On 21-22 September 2009 the Council of Europe Secretariat carried out a mission to Tbilisi during which the interviews for the recruitment of the new national Long Term Advisor were also conducted. As a result, Ms Nino Mtvarelishvili was recruited as the new national Long Term Advisor of the project.

2.4 Beneficiary Institution

On 26 December 2008, President Mikheil Saakashvili signed the presidential decree N°622 establishing a Coordination Council for Fighting against Corruption (hereinafter the Coordination Council). The Coordination Council is placed under the authority of the Minister of Justice and is composed of twelve members of the government. Additionally, four representatives of civil society from the major NGOs involved in that field, have been invited to participate in the work of the Council.

The main objectives of the Council are to:

- Elaborate a general policy for fighting against corruption;

- Elaborate and periodically review the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan;
- Coordinate and monitor implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan;

In January 2009, the Coordination Council replaced the "State Chancellery" as the main beneficiary and counterpart institution.

2.5 Expected results and methodology

The expected results of the project are to update the existing Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan so that they reflect and include policy actions to implement all GRECO recommendations made in the report of the Second Round of Evaluation and in the OECD/ACN Monitoring Reports; to elaborate anti-corruption and economic crime-related draft amendments which comply with relevant international and European standards and/or best practices; to increase the capacity of the prosecution to investigate corruption cases; and to establish corruption-prevention plans.

Moreover, the project aims at supporting the establishment, as requested by the Georgian authorities, of a specialised anti-corruption body/structure responsible for the coordination of national efforts in combating and preventing corruption.

These objectives are pursued through close co-operation with all relevant stakeholders, the identification of international and national experts, through organisation of tailored activities such as round-tables, workshops, and study visits for practitioners; preparation and finalisation of feasibility studies and surveys, and harmonising legal texts in accordance with the Council of Europe's Conventions on Corruption and the United Nations' Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

2.6 Summary of project outputs (revised version of 25 June 2009)

Overall objective	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
Project objective	To support the implementation of Georgia's Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan
Output 1	Capacity of the Office of the Inter-Agency Coordination Council (and Contact Points in cooperating institutions) to manage, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan is reinforced
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 State Minister on Reforms Coordination
Activity 1.4	Advise and train the Staff at 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 State Minister on Reforms Coordination and relevant Contact Points (Working Party members)
Output 2	Anti-corruption Strategy Reviewed and Action Plan Updated
Activity 2.1	Assist and advise the Staff of the 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	Support the Coordination Council in organisation of the workshop on the results and finalisation of surveys
Output 3	All the necessary amendments and regulations elaborated by the Coordination Council in cooperation with the relevant partner institutions and the advisory board are drafted
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
Output 4	Capacities of the Prosecution to investigate and prosecute high level corruption strengthened
Activity 4.1	2 in-country training sessions for the staff of units specialised in investigation and prosecution of high level corruption (case studies, proactive and multidisciplinary approach)
Activity 4.2	A Training module is developed within the Ministry of Justice through consultation to sustain and consolidate the implementation of 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
Activity 4.4	Up to 2 study visits for representatives of specialised units to European institutions
Output 5	Integrity and institutional capacity for preventing corruption at the General Prosecutor's Office is reinforced
Activity 5.1	Training for those public officials designate to respond to request for public information
Activity 5.2	Training on Code of Conducts for police officers with particular focus on training for head of units
Activity 5.3	Training to improve the ability of tax inspectors to detect corruption offences

2.7 Nature of inputs during the reported period

The following types of activities are proposed within the project:

- **Expert advice** - provided by the Long-term Adviser within his competence and experience or, as necessary, by Short-term Advisers selected according to their specific field of competence, through direct conversation with individual

officials or groups of officials on the issues specified in the Workplan and wherever necessary.

- **Expert opinions/technical papers** - provided in writing, as necessary, to comment on the pieces of legislation or their drafts or other documents, by independent experts from the Council of Europe Member States, via the CoE Secretariat.
- **Round-tables** - allowing stakeholders/professional groups and individuals to look at ways in which their own policies can be reformed. They will also be used to contribute specialist knowledge to a broader debate on a given issue.
- **Workshops** - allow a particular task to be undertaken involving multiple co-operating parties. Experts put their knowledge at the disposal of practitioners and officials. Workshops can also be used to provide specific advanced training.
- **Training courses** - allow participants to acquire new knowledge and/or professional skills through interaction with a qualified trainer. Elements of self-education can be included.
- **Translations** - make important texts and information accessible in local languages and can be used as a tool in training activities and seminars.

3 Activities implemented during the reporting period

3.1 Output 1

Capacity of the Office of the Inter-Agency Coordination Council (and Contact Points in cooperating institutions) to manage, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan is reinforced

Activity 1.4 Consolidate and create institutional sustainability for the Coordination Council

Status: Underway

On 11 August 2009, a meeting of "working group on anticorruption legal reforms" was held at the Ministry of Justice. The working group was established by the Anti-Corruption Coordination Council on 17 July 2009. This was the first meeting of the working group to discuss draft amendments to the Law on Public Procurement. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr Jaba Ebanoidze.

The parties discussed main directions of the law and introduced some innovations to be put in the amended law. Namely, involvement of internet technologies in a tender as well as in bidders registration process. The parties also discussed terms for adoption new law and certain challenges for its enforcement.

3.2 Output 2

Anti-corruption Strategy reviewed and Action Plan updated

Activity 2.1 Workshop on "Best Practices" in Anti-Corruption bodies (11 March 2009, Tbilisi)

Status: completed

The purpose of this workshop was to present and discuss different models of the Anti-Corruption structures, their advantages and disadvantages and which model could be possibly applicable to Georgia in the future. It was also focused on how to better draft the Anti-Corruption strategy and action plan.

Ms Marijana Trivunovic, expert in anti-corruption, and Mr Drago Kos, Chairperson of the Slovenian Commission for the Prevention of Corruption and the President of GRECO, made presentations and led the discussions.

The main shortcomings in Georgian system were listed as follows:

- Lack of Independence and Autonomy
- Lack of Freedom from Pressure
- Lack of Secretariat and absence of Budget

Thus, the Coordination Council has been established by simple presidential decree (N°622), and therefore could be easily dissolved, one or more of its members dismissed and replaced, its mandate modified by the President etc. Consequently, the Coordination Council cannot be considered as being independent,

autonomous, and free of pressure/influence (whereas at the same time, the President shields the Coordination Council from external influence).

Through various examples, Mr Drago Kos emphasised the importance of securing the existence of such a body, ideally through a law. The aim of such a law would be to make its dissolution as difficult as possible for any government that may be less devoted to fighting against corruption.

Another serious shortcoming of the Council is the absence of a specific budget or Secretariat which would also contribute to guarantee its autonomy and independence. For the time being, the Council relies fully on the good will of other entities of the administration (eg. Ministry of Justice) for putting at its disposal personnel or equipment on an ad-hoc basis, which is certainly not sustainable and limits severely its efficiency. As a start, one possibility would be for each institution to second, on a long-term or fix-term basis, one or two experts, in order to provide the Council with a Secretariat.

Finally, the Council is mainly composed of senior governmental officials who are participating in the work of the Council in addition to other priority tasks of their functions. Therefore, both experts stressed the vital importance of providing the Council with a proper Secretariat composed of lawyers and experts, specialised in the different fields of anti-corruption, who would be working on reviewing the Strategy and Action Plan, drafting recommendations to be adopted by the Council in plenary session meetings, as well as proposing preventive measures to be implemented in all areas of administration and business. Such responsibilities require daily work which can only be carried out by a specialised Secretariat which therefore requires allocation of an adequate budget to the Council.

Regarding the strategy and action plan, it was highlighted that drafting of a strategy is the first step of concretisation of the political will into a tangible list of measures and therefore add credibility and realism to political commitments. Ms Marijana Trivunovic explained that defining the AC Strategy should derive from 3 questions: What for? How? And what exists?

A suggested Action Plan for review and updating of the Anti-corruption Strategy was distributed to the participants.

Activity 2.2 Call for interest and selection of the Survey company

Status: Under way, to be finalised soon

The two surveys on Perception of Corruption in Georgia, Household Survey (General Public) and Survey on Public Officials were commissioned to the successful bidder GORBI Company following an advertisement and selection procedure. A contract between GORBI and the CoE was finalised in April 2009.

GORBI submitted the draft final report on General Public Survey on 9 August 2009. An edited version was submitted on 26 August 2009. The draft final report on public officials survey was submitted on 28 September 2009. Currently, these final versions have been reviewed by the project team in order to finalise them and make them public.

3.3 Output 3

All the necessary amendments and regulations elaborated by the Coordination Council in cooperation with the relevant partner institutions and the advisory board are drafted

Activity 3.1 Draft amendments to bring Georgian legislation on line with international standards and best practices

Status: underway, to be finalised soon

Two Technical Papers assessed the level of compliance of the Georgian Legislation with the provisions of the Council of Europe Criminal Law (ETS 173) and Civil Law (ETS 174) Conventions on Corruption, as well as with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The two draft Technical Papers were prepared by a national expert, Mr Giorgi Meladze, and submitted to two international experts for their review and additional comments. Mr Alan Doig prepared the UNCAC review and Mr Bostjan Penko prepared the CoE Conventions review. Their reports later on were submitted to the national expert for finalising the technical papers.

Mr Giorgi Meladze is currently final-editing the technical papers.

3.4 Output 4

Capacities for the Prosecution to investigate and prosecute high level corruption strengthened

No activities has been carried our under output 4 during the reporting period.

3.5 Output 5

Integrity and institutional capacity for preventing corruption at the General Public Prosecutor's Office is reinforced strengthened

No activity has been carried out under output 5 during the reporting period.

3.6 Other activities

3.6.1 Third Steering Group Meeting (25 June 2009, Tbilisi) – Project extension

The 3rd GEPAC Steering Group Meeting took place at the Ministry of Justice in Tbilisi on 25 June 2009. The aim of the meeting was to review the progress made and to discuss the possibility of extending the project. Prior to the Steering Group meeting, a 6-month progress report covering the period 1 September 2008 – 28 February 2009 was prepared and distributed to the members of the SG together with a proposal on issues to be discussed, and a proposed plan on the future activities.

The following issues were discussed:

1. Brief review of the implemented activities and those that were postponed;
2. Extension of the GEPAC project due to delays in implementation of activities and the revision of the workplan.
3. Reinforcing the capacities of the Inter-Agency Coordination Council for fighting against Corruption (hereinafter Coordination Council) in order to make it fully operational;

4. Consolidating the status of the Coordination Council on the basis of the experts' recommendations;
5. The review and monitoring of the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan;
6. The recruitment of a second National Long Term Advisor.

Invitees:

1. Mr Heino van Houwelingen, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tbilisi, Georgia
2. Mr Vakhtang Lejava, Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia
3. Ms Tina Burjaliani, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice
4. Ms Natia Gvazava, Ministry of the Interior
5. Mr Borys Wódz, SRSG, Council of Europe Office, Tbilisi
6. Mr Przemysław Musiałkowski, Head a.i., Corruption and Fraud Unit, Council of Europe
7. Ms Ilknur Yuksek, Project Manager, Council of Europe
8. Mr Givi Kutidze, GEPAC Long Term Adviser, CoE Consultant
9. Ms Tamara Katsitadze, GEPAC Local Project Officer, Council of Europe

Overview of discussions:

The SG meeting mainly focused on the need for an extension for further implementation of the project and on the conditions to realise it. The CoE and donor representative had particularly insisted on the need for consolidating the status and capacities of the Coordination Council. The discussions further included reviewing and updating of the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan. The need for a substantial revision of the project workplan in case of an extension was also underlined. Consequently, the SG meeting agreed on the main amendments to the work plan.

Conclusions:

At the end of the meeting, the Steering Group decided on three core issues as outlined in the proposal:

1. GEPAC project shall be extended until 31 March 2010 in order to proceed with the implementation of the activities. The necessary administrative procedure to realise this will be completed by the Council of Europe;
2. The Project Workplan and Calendar of Activities should be updated. The Council of Europe Secretariat and the partner institutions shall prepare a revised Workplan and Calendar of Activities, and submit it to the Project main counterpart institution and donor for comments and approval.
3. The Council of Europe Secretariat can proceed with the recruitment of a second National Long Term Advisor in consultation with the donor and the beneficiary.

Follow-up:

In a letter dated 17 July 2009 the Council of Europe Secretariat made an official request for extension of the deadline for the implementation of the project. The request was accompanied by a revised workplan, revised budget and the minutes of the 3rd steering group meeting. In a letter dated 1 September 2009 the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands- Georgia agreed with the revised workplan, revised budget and with the extension of the project duration until 31 March 2009.

3.6.2 Recruitment of the national Long Term Advisor - Meetings with the Donor and the Representatives of Main Beneficiaries (21-22 September 2009)

On 21 and 22 September 2009 the Council of Europe Secretariat carried out a mission in Tbilisi. The main objectives of the mission were the recruitment of a national Long Term Advisor and meetings with the Donor and the main beneficiaries in order to review the revised workplan and implementation of activities following the extension.

On 21 September 2009 the interviews for the recruitment of the national Long Term Advisor took place at the Council of Europe Office in Tbilisi. The Recruitment Panel of four consisted of three members of the Council of Europe Secretariat and the main contact person from the Coordination Council for Fight against Corruption. Five short-listed candidates were interviewed. The Panel decided unanimously to offer the position to Ms Nina Nino Mtvarelishvili.

On 22 September 2009 the meeting between the members of the CoE secretariat, the national Long Term Advisor, the representative of the Donor, the representatives of the main counterpart and of other beneficiaries took place at the premises of the Ministry of Justice, in Tbilisi.

Invitees:

1. Mr Heino van Houwelingen, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tbilisi, Georgia
2. Mr Vakhtang Lejava, Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia
3. Ms Tina Burjaliani, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice
4. Ms Natia Gvazava, Ministry of the Interior
5. Mr Giorgi Jokhadze, Head of the Analytical Department, Ministry of Justice
6. Ms Ardita Abdiu, Head of the Corruption and Fraud Unit, Council of Europe
7. Ms Ilknur Yuksek, Project Manager, Council of Europe
8. Ms Nino Mtvarelishvili, GEPAC Long Term Adviser, CoE Consultant
9. Ms Tamara Katsitadze, GEPAC Local Project Officer, Council of Europe

Overview of discussions:

As regards the anti-corruption strategy and action plan, Mr Giorgi Jokhadze, informed the meeting that they distributed the new draft to the members of the Coordination Council. He also stated that they were receiving feedback from the NGO's at the moment. Ms Ardita Abdiu suggested that the expert, Ms Marijana Trivunovic, who had been involved in the project activities in the past, could support this activity. The members of the meeting agreed with this.

As part of the ongoing work on the anti-corruption strategy, the situation of the current survey studies was also discussed. The CoE secretariat informed the meeting that the draft final reports were received and being reviewed and edited. The further steps concerning the survey studies were also discussed as follows: Mr Vato Lejava stated that they can be distributed to the members of the Coordination Council and at the same time to a PM Government session for consideration (especially the household). It was also discussed that the research company, GORBI, could make a presentation on the result during workshops organised with the participation of the representatives from the relevant institutions such as health and education. Mr Heino van Houwelingen also supported the dissemination of the results to the public.

Concerning the elaboration and amendments of the necessary laws, Mr Giorgi Jokhadze stated that the Coordination Council created a "Working Group" which will look at the legislation and propose amendments. They are currently examining the Procurement Law. Ms Ardita Abdiu stated that the Corruption Proof Reading Tools may be useful when defining and reviewing the necessary amendments and that the project can provide technical assistance on that.

Regarding the study visit to a European institution, the French model was generally accepted as a more suitable one as it concerns the prevention. Ms Ardita Abdiu suggested adding the members of the Secretariat of the Coordination Council to the possible participants of the study visit along with the law enforcement. The members of the meeting favoured this suggestion.

In terms of the training activities concerning the public prosecutors and the police, it was reiterated that the training module for the prosecutors can be a part of the training programme. Ms Tina Burjaliani underlined the possible role of the Training Centre within the Ministry of Justice for this activity. For the police, Ms Nina Gvazava stated that the Police Academy can be regarded as a counterpart in providing the training. It was agreed that the Council of Europe secretariat to coordinate these activities and to contact the international experts accordingly.

4 Future Activities

To be effective and successful, the fight against corruption should follow a coherent approach made up of a series of different phases and steps. The GEPAC Workplan reflects that approach, had been agreed upon with the Georgian authorities. Summarised as follows, the setting up of the GEPAC Project, especially outputs 1 and 2, consist first of defining and establishing a specialised anti-corruption body which would be in charge of reviewing the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan, to place it in a legal framework, to establish a methodology to analyse current the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan in order to make recommendations for their revision and update, and finally, to set up tools to coordinate and monitor its implementation.

Following the shortcomings described above (see chapters 3.2) GEPAC efforts and priorities should now focus on assisting the Coordination Council to address these shortcomings, consolidate its position, as well as increase its power and importance.

As the Coordination Council already started its work, GEPAC could propose combined actions by providing immediate assistance in terms of methodology, working procedures, guidelines on the review of the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan through workshops and round tables, while, at the same time, carrying out a full assessment expertise of the Council, with the aim of rapidly providing comprehensive recommendations to tackle shortcomings.

Planned activities for October 2009-March 2010

Output	Description of activity	Status	Date
Output 1			
Activity 1.4	2 nd Round table Discussion on tools of reporting, cooperation with partner institutions and monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption measures in line with the new Anti-corruption Action Plan	Planned	November 2009
	Updating of the webpage on anti-corruption activities within the website of the Ministry of Justice and of the Project's web page within the Web site of the Economic Crime Division	Underway	October 2009 onwards
Output 2			
Activity 2.1	2 nd Analysis and recommendations for update and improvement of the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan	Planned	October/November 2009
Activity 2.2	Presentation of survey findings to the relevant stake holders	Underway	November 2009
Activity	Support the Coordination Council in	Planned	November/December

2.3	organisation of workshop on the results and finalisation of these studies		2009
Output 3			
Activity 3.1	Technical Papers on level of compliance of Georgian Legislation with CoE Convention on criminal and civil law (ETS 173 & ETS 174) and UNCAC	Underway	November 2009
	Identification of Domestic Legislations/laws which required amendments and should therefore be assisted	Underway	October 2009 onwards
	Create a combined working group to elaborate the drafts and proposals	Planned	November 2009 onwards
Output 4			
Activity 4.2	A Training module is developed with the Ministry of Justice through to sustain and consolidate the implementation of the training beyond the work of the project	Planned	October 2009 onwards
Activity 4.3	Training on criminal liability of legal persons to all officials concerned in cases of bribery, trading influence and money laundering	Planned	January 2010
Activity 4.4	2nd Study Visit	Planned	February 2010 France/Slovenia
Output 5			
Activity 5.1	Training for those public officials designated to respond to request for public information	Planned	December 2009
Activity 5.2	Training on Codes of Conduct for police officers with particular focus on training for head of units	Planned	End of November 2009
Activity 5.3	Training to improve the ability of tax inspectors	Planned	February 2009

5 Summary and conclusion

Since November 2007, the project has been operating against the background of a difficult political situation which, provoked serious delays in the implementation of project activities. As mentioned in previous narrative reports, and expressed during the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Steering Group meetings, the implementation of activities has been considerably delayed, especially those related to the review of the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan. However, the establishment of the Coordination Council for Fighting against Corruption in January 2009, which is in charge, among other things, to review the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan, is a welcoming development in a bid to carry out the Project activities.

During the reporting period, the Project team, together with the Georgian institutions, managed to carry out several activities under the Workplan and Calendar of activities, mainly for the benefit of the Prosecutor's Office and Ministry of Internal Affairs whose constructive and fruitful cooperation should be underlined.

The Council of Europe is committed to continue assisting Georgian authorities in their fight against corruption through this project. In this respect, the establishment of the Coordination Council for Fighting against Corruption is undoubtedly a positive sign of Georgian efforts to move forward in this field. However, as mentioned, meetings with members of the Council, as well as the workshop on "Best Practices" revealed shortcomings which must be appropriately addressed, to enable the Council to properly perform its tasks. A new Work Plan and the calendar of activities, especially as regards the review of the Strategy and Action Plan, is therefore established during the 3rd Steering Committee in June 2009 and later reviewed during the subsequent meetings with the Donor and the main counterpart and the beneficiaries in September 2009.

6 Appendix

Annex 1: GEPAC Revised Workplan of Activities (version 15 July 2009)

Annex 2: Minutes of the 3rd Steering Group meeting

ANNEX I

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

**Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Georgia
(GEPAC)**

CoE Project No. 2007/DGI/VC/779

Workplan of activities

(version of 15 July 2009)

The main project partner from the Georgian side is the Inter-Agency Coordination Council for Fight Against Corruption, which plays the key role in the national anti-corruption effort.

Project beneficiaries also include:

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

The project operates at the national level through co-operation with the national partner institution (Working Group) and beneficiaries, and at the international level through promoting international cooperation, networking, and exchange of information.

Overall objective	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
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Level of implementation of the of the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and level of ratification of the Additional protocol and other international relevant Conventions (UNCAC); ▪ Level of compliance with the GRECO recommendations.
Project objective	To support the implementation of Georgia’s Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan
Indicators	Level of implementation of the measures of Georgia’s Anti-Corruption Action Plan addressed through the Project.
Assumptions	Continuing commitment of the Georgian government to the implementation of the Georgia’s Anti-Corruption Action Plan
Output 1	Capacity of the Office of the Inter-Agency Coordination Council (and Contact Points in cooperating institutions) to manage, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan is reinforced
Indicators	<p>By month 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inception Phase report, and Workplan providing generic activities that will be adjusted in the course of the implementation of the project (as per priorities and circumstances of the government) is approved; ▪ Staff and long-term consultants are recruited and ready to operate. <p>By month 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Office of the State Chancellery provided with computer equipment; ▪ First monitoring report on the implementation of the Action Plan prepared by the Office and submitted to the Prime Minister;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contact points designated in each cooperating institution become operational. <p>By month 12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contact points reporting regularly on progress in their respective institution. <p>By month 24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support and advice on policy design for the establishment of a specialised anti-corruption structure/unit has been provided. 				
Assumptions	The Georgian government provides the Office of the State Chancellery with the necessary resources and competencies. Co-operating institutions nominate their contact points and give them the appropriate competencies.				
Level	Description	Action	Time/Venue	CoE Inputs	Local Inputs
Activity 1.1	Inception Phase (2 months): finalisation of Workplan of activities with all counterparts; conduct recruitment of staff and long-term advisers; (commissioning, interviews, and contracting)	Workplan preparatory meeting Commissioning of long-terms experts Recruitment/interviews of local project officer	1 September -30 October 2007, Strasbourg and Tbilisi	Expertise Contractual arrangements Administrative arrangements	Expertise Office space Administrative arrangements Support from the Office of Minister on Reforms Coordination
Activity 1.2	Organisation of start-up conference with participation of all relevant stakeholders	Start-up conference	26 October 2007, Tbilisi	Secretariat support Administrative arrangements	Organisational support Workplan discussions with respective institutions
Activity 1.3	Provision of equipment for PIU use (see item 3.2 in the budget); and/or the Office of the State Chancellery (item 3.1 of the budget) to be carried out during the Inception Phase and in the	Assessment of needs Procurement (incl. tendering, contracts and delivery of equipment) Transfer of property to	Started in February 2008 and finalised in May 2008	Administrative arrangements Inventory of transferred equipment	Logistical support for tender procedures Assessment and IT specification

	course of the implementation of the project, subject to needs and priorities	the PIU		(countersigned by recipients)	
Activity 1.4	Consolidate and create institutional sustainability for the Coordination Council	RTD on tools of reporting, co-operation and monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption measures and on assessing the needs in terms of human, logistical, and financial resources for the Coordination Council for Fight against Corruption, as well as on the organisational structure, working methodology and procedures/guidelines for the Coordination Council	1 st RTD, 28 January 2007, Tbilisi 2 nd RTD, Tbilisi (September 2009)	Administrative Arrangements	Logistical support 2 National short-term experts Logistical support 2 National short-term experts
		Setting up the Secretariat of the Coordination Council	End of September 2009	Administrative Arrangements	Logistical Support Support from the Ministry of Justice
		Design, creation and continuous update of a special webpage on anti-corruption activities, activities of the Coordination Council and the project	November 2008 onwards	Documentation and information gathering	Domain permission Documentation and information gathering Up-loading of documentation and information

		on the Ministry of Justice website.			
Output 2	Anti-corruption Strategy reviewed and Action Plan is updated				
Indicators	<p>By month 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan are further elaborated/updated and reflect all GRECO recommendations issued during the Second Round Evaluation Report and OECD/ACN Monitoring Reports; <p>By month 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the results of corruption perception and attitude survey available; and the National Anti-corruption Conference is organised by the Office of the State Chancellery and Action Plan implementation is monitored and reviewed. 				
Assumptions	All relevant institutions and stake holders participate in the process of reviewing				
Level	Description	Action	Time/Venue	CoE Inputs	Local Inputs
Activity 2.1	Assist and advice the Coordination Council to further elaborate and update the Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan in line with GRECO recommendations and other international commitments and obligations with respect to specific anti-corruption measures	Establishment of a working group composed by representatives of the main government agencies involved in the anti-corruption reforms, the GEPAC Project Team, representatives of civil society and independent international experts.	December 2008, Tbilisi	International Experts	Coordination among relevant Stakeholder Institutions and civil society in Georgia National Experts
		Assessment and inventory of the Anti-Corruption Strategy from 2005 and the draft from 2007	January 2009, Tbilisi	Administrative arrangements 2 International experts	Logistical support 4 National experts

		1st analysis and recommendations for the update and improvement of the AC Strategy and Action Plan	11 March 2009, Tbilisi	Administrative arrangements 1 International expert	Logistical support Coordination among relevant stakeholder institutions 2 National experts
		2 nd analysis and recommendations for the update and improvement of the Action Plan	October 2009, Tbilisi	Administrative arrangements 1 International expert	Logistical support Coordination among relevant stakeholder institutions 2 National experts
		Drafting of a new Anti-corruption Strategy	December 2009, Tbilisi	Administrative arrangements 1 International expert	Logistical support Coordination among relevant stakeholder institutions 2 National experts
		Finalizing of the revised Anti-Corruption Action Plan	March 2010, Tbilisi	Administrative arrangements 1 International expert	Logistical support Coordination among relevant stakeholder institutions 2 National experts
Activity 2.2	Organise corruption perception and attitude surveys on corruption levels	Identification of the focus and concept of the survey in workshops Designing of the survey methodology Designing the ToRs for the Survey(s) provider	WS on survey methodologies and designing of 2 survey questionnaires for Georgia (15-16 July 2008, Baku)	Administrative Arrangements with the survey provider following a tender organised locally 2 International experts	Coordination with the survey provider and institutions Identification of service provider through a tender 2 National experts

		<p>Contracting of the survey provider</p> <p>Presentation of survey findings to relevant stakeholders</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Identification of the focus and concept of the 2nd survey in 2 workshops</p> <p>Designing of the survey methodology</p> <p>Designing the ToRs for the Survey(s) provider</p> <p>Contracting of the survey provider</p> <p>Presentation of survey findings to relevant stakeholders</p>		<p>Administrative Arrangements with the survey provider following a tender organised locally</p> <p>2 International experts</p>	<p>Coordination with the survey provider and institutions</p> <p>Identification of service provider through a tender</p> <p>2 National experts</p>
Activity 2.3	Support the Coordination Council in organisation of the workshop on the results and finalisation of these studies	<p>Involvement of relevant representatives from institutions and municipalities;</p> <p>Results from assessment and Inventory of Implementation of the Anti-corruption</p>	October 2009 Tbilisi	Administrative Arrangements 1 International expert	Administrative Arrangements 2 National experts

		Strategy (2005) be discussed in addition introducing the New Strategy and Action Plan;			
Output 3	All the necessary amendments and regulations elaborated by the Coordination Council in cooperation with the relevant partner institutions and the advisory board are drafted				
Indicators	Draft amendments elaborated which comply with International and European standards and / or best practices and submitted to the government of Georgia				
Assumptions	Draft laws are submitted to the relevant Ministries				
Level	Description	Action	Time/Venue	CoE Inputs	Local Inputs
Activity 3.1	Draft amendments to bring Georgian legislation in line with international standards and best practices	Drafting of legal texts in accordance with UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)	Tbilisi, throughout the project duration	2 International Experts	Identification of areas in need for improvements 6 Local Experts
		Report on level of compliance of Georgian legislation with the Council of Europe Convention on Criminal and Civil Law (ETS 173 & ETS 174)	Tbilisi, throughout the project duration	2 International Experts	6 Local Experts
		Presentation and discussion on draft legislation in workshops	1 st - 30 June 2008, Signagi- completed 2 nd - 2 July 2008, Kutaisi, Batumu-completed		

		Identification of domestic legislations/laws which required amendments and should therefore be assisted	End of September 2009	International Expert	Identification of law which need for improvement
		Create a combined working group to elaborate the drafts and proposals	October 2009 on wards	1 International Expert	6 Local Experts
Activity 3.2	Contribute to the implementation and training on monitoring of financing of political parties and electoral campaigns	Workshop with the relevant stake holders on the analysis of the functioning of the existing legislation on financing of political parties2009, Tbilisi	1 International Expert	1 National Expert
Activity 3.2	Provide training on issues related to the newly enacted anti-corruption legislation	2x3 Training sessions with relevant target groups on legislation issues	Tbilisi, throughout the project duration and upon needs assessment and responding to requests from the respective institutions 1 st WS-22 Feb 2008 2 nd WS-8 July 2008	6 international experts	Identification of areas of concern Coordination of the different potential participating institutions and participants 6 National experts
Output 4	Capacities of the Prosecution to investigate and prosecute high level corruption is strengthened				

Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By month 22 at least 4 training events held ▪ Number of investigations/prosecutions of high-level corruption increased 				
Assumptions	The Prosecution and the Ministry of Interior allocate the necessary human resources				
Level	Description	Action	Time/Venue	CoE Inputs	Local Inputs
Activity 4.1	Multi-disciplinary training for prosecutors/law enforcement officers on use of SIMS and criminal law procedures when investigating and prosecuting high-level corruption cases (outside Tbilisi) 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)	Assessment of needs for each specialised unit at the prosecutorial services and the Ministry of Interior,	9-10 December 2008, Tbilisi	Administrative arrangements Questionnaire for training needs assessment in the field of criminalisation of corruption proceedings	Logistical support Consulting of relevant information/documentation of previous or ongoing technical assistance projects 1 National expert

		Multi-disciplinary training for 30 prosecutors/law enforcement officers on use of special investigative techniques and criminal law procedures when investigating and prosecuting high-level corruption cases.	9-10 December 2008, Tbilisi-completed	Administrative arrangements 2 International experts (with prosecution/law enforcement profile)	Logistical support 2 National experts (with prosecution/law enforcement profile)
		Multi-disciplinary training for 30 prosecutors/law enforcement officers on use of special investigative techniques and criminal law procedures when investigating and prosecuting high-level corruption and anti-money laundering cases.October 2009, regions (i.e. outside Tbilisi)	Administrative arrangements 2 International experts (with prosecution/law enforcement profile)	Logistical support 2 National experts (with prosecution/law enforcement profile)
Activity 4.2	A training module is developed within the Ministry of Justice through consultation with other relevant ministries to sustain and consolidate the implementation of the training beyond the work of the project	Workshop on drafting and assessment of training needs and modalities for the MoJ training unit to deliver the training	September 2009, Tbilisi	Administrative Arrangements 2 International experts (with prosecution/law enforcement profile)	Logistical Support 2 National experts (with prosecution/law enforcement profile)

		Develop a training strategy and training modules through the consultations	October-November 2009, Tbilisi	Administrative Arrangements 2 International experts (with prosecution/law enforcement profile)	Logistical Support 2 National experts (with prosecution/law enforcement profile)
		3 Pilot trainings, including the testing and the revision of the training material and the strategy	November 2009 January 2010 February 2010	Administrative Arrangements 2 International experts (with prosecution/law enforcement profile)	Logistical Support 2 National experts (with prosecution/law enforcement profile)
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	2 Training events for all prosecutors and judges concerned at the domestic level	January 2010	Administrative arrangements 1 International expert	Logistical support Institutional Coordination and Support 2 National experts
Activity 4.4	Up to 2 study visit for representatives of specialised units (law enforcement) to European counterpart institution	Organisation and coordination of study visit for up to 5 senior police officers and/or MoIA representatives from specialised units	January 2009 (Zagreb & Hamburg)-completed February 2010, France/Slovenia	Administrative arrangements Coordination with relevant institutions for visiting	Logistical support Coordination with relevant institutions delegating staff to participate in study visits
Output 5	Integrity and institutional capacity for preventing corruption at the General Prosecutor's Office is reinforced				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By month 24 trained staff within prosecutorial and law enforcement services. ▪ Manual of training distributed and disseminated to all relevant prosecutorial and law enforcement services. 				
Assumptions	Plans and codes elaborated are formalised, published and implemented in practice.				

Level	Description	Action	Time/Venue	CoE Inputs	Local Inputs
Activity 5.1¹	Training for those public officials designated to respond to request for public information	1 Training Event for all specially designated officials	November 2009	Administrative arrangements 2 International experts per training	Logistical support Institutional Coordination and Support 1/2 National experts per training
Activity 5.2	Training on Codes of Conduct for police officers with particular focus on training for head of units	1 Training event for law enforcement on the Code of Conduct	End of October/November 2009 Outside Tbilisi	Administrative arrangements 1 International expert	Logistical support Institutional Coordination and Support 2 National experts
Activity 5.3	Training to improve the ability of tax inspectors to detect corruption offences, in particular as regards bribes concealed as legitimate expenses.	Developing training modules/expert opinion Training for trainers (Tax inspectors)	October 2009, Tbilisi	Administrative arrangements 1 International expert	Logistical support Institutional Coordination and Support 2 National experts

¹ This activity has been revised/changed in view of proposals made at the 1st Steering Group meeting (22 April 2008)

Annex II

Directorate General of Human Rights and
Legal Affairs



GEPAC Project

Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Georgia (GEPAC)

Minutes of the GEPAC Project 3rd Steering Group Meeting

25 June 2009

Ministry of Justice, Tbilisi

The 3rd GEPAC Steering Group Meeting took place at the Ministry of Justice in Tbilisi on 25 June 2009. The aim of the meeting was to review the progress made to date and to discuss the possibility of extending the project. Prior to the Steering Group meeting, a 6-month progress report covering the period 1 September 2008 – 28 February 2009 was prepared and distributed to the members of the SG together with a proposal on issues to be discussed, and a proposed plan on the future activities.

The Agenda of the SG Meeting covered the following issues:

1. Brief review of the implemented activities and those that were postponed;
2. Extension of the GEPAC project due to delays in implementation of activities and the revision of the workplan.
3. Reinforcing the capacities of the Inter-Agency Coordination Council for fighting against Corruption (hereinafter Coordination Council) in order to make it fully operational;
4. Consolidating the status of the Coordination Council on the basis of the experts' recommendations;
5. The review and monitoring of the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan;
6. The recruitment of a second National Long Term Advisor.

Participants:

1. Mr Heino van Houwelingen, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tbilisi, Georgia
2. Mr Vakhtang Lejava, Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia
3. Ms Tina Burjaliani, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice
4. Ms Natia Gvazava, Ministry of the Interior
5. Mr Borys Wódz, SRSG, Council of Europe Office, Tbilisi
6. Mr Przemysław Musiałkowski, Head a.i., Corruption and Fraud Unit, Council of Europe
7. Ms Ilknur Yuksek, Project Manager, Council of Europe
8. Mr Givi Kutidze, GEPAC Long Term Adviser, CoE Consultant
9. Ms Tamara Katsitadze, GEPAC Local Project Officer, Council of Europe

Overview

Opening remarks were made by Mr Heino van Houwelingen, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tbilisi, Mr Przemysław Musiałkowski, Head a.i., Corruption and Fraud Unit, Council of Europe and Mr Vakhtang Lejava, Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia on behalf of the beneficiary institution. The opening remarks focused on the need for an extension for further implementation of the project and on the conditions in which that was going to be carried out. The latter had particularly included the need for consolidating the status and capacities of the Coordination Council. It further included reviewing and updating of the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan. Ms Ilknur Yuksek, Project Manager, Council of Europe underlined the need for a substantial revision of the project workplan in case of an extension. In view of these, the SGM discussed and decided on the followings²:

Output 1: The wording of the Output 1 should be amended as follows: "Capacity of the Inter-Agency Coordination Council (and Contact Points in cooperating institutions) to manage, coordinate and monitor the Anti-Corruption Action Plan is reinforced". Accordingly, in the workplan the word "the State Chancellery" must be replaced with "the Inter-Agency Coordination Council".

The SGM decided that the aim of this Output is to consolidate the capacity of the Coordination Council. The most important factor is to strengthen the legal status of the Coordination Council and to set up its secretariat. The Georgian authorities affirmed their commitments to these issues. Mr Lejava stated that it is unlikely to adopt a separate law immediately. However, it is possible to make amendments on the existing legal documents setting up the Coordination Council. Ms Tina Burjaliani, First Deputy Minister of Justice stated that her Ministry will be supporting the secretariat of the Coordination Council by allocating premises and staff for the secretariat. She added that this can be done by the end of September 2009.

Mr Heino van Houwelingen underlined that the project should mention that the expected result is to reinforce the capacity of the Coordination Council, the means to reach this result can be flexible.

The SGM agreed to these proposals.

The SGM further agreed that:

Activities 1.A and 1.B will be merged and carried out as one activity (see the planned activities distributed to the SGM);

Activity 1.C – the study visit will be moved to output 4 and the fund will be allocated for a study visit for the law enforcement officials (prosecutors and policemen);

Activity 1.4 B – the Georgian webpage of the project will be moved to the Ministry of Justice website.

Output 2: The wording of the Output will remain the same (Anti-Corruption Strategy reviewed and Action Plan updated)

The surveys on the Perception of Corruption and Quality of Public Service in Georgia are currently being undertaken. The results of these surveys will be

² The representatives of the Council of Europe acted as facilitators and drew conclusive remarks from the discussions during the meeting. Therefore, their names will not be repeated in the remainder of this document.

presented during a workshop and they will be taken into account when reviewing and amending the Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan.

Mr Vato Lejava stated that the work can continue with the Council of Europe's assistance to receive the strategy outline from the international expert, who was involved in the first drafting, namely Ms Marijana Trivunovic. The role of the international expert is regarded as leading for this output.

Mr van Houwelingen maintained that the project lifecycle can also include the monitoring of the implementation of the strategy.

The SGM agreed with these proposals.

Output 3: The wording will be amended as follows:

"All the necessary amendments as identified by the Coordination Council, relevant partner institutions and the advisory board are drafted"

The Georgian authorities stated that the Coordination Council will identify the amendments which should be assisted by the GEPAC project. They confirmed that a list of laws will be provided by the end of September 2009. This issue will also be on the agenda at the next Coordination Council meeting which will be held in July 2009. Mr Lejava stated that the list should not be exhaustive but rather indicative.

Meanwhile, the Venice Commission released its report on political party financing in Georgia. It was proposed to hold a workshop targeting the political parties which receive state funding, the timing of which is subjected to consultations with the respective parties.

The SGM agreed with these proposals.

Output 4 and 5: The titles will remain the same.

Ms Burjaliani and Mr Lejava stated that the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) were currently preparing the training modules for their staff. The project training activities can also be included in this. The MoJ further expressed their interest to hold training of trainers (ToT) and to develop training manuals. The SGM welcomed this development. Mr van Houwelingen underlined the fact that one of the project's main objectives should be to institutionalise the training activities in order to facilitate the follow-up and cascade training. The Council of Europe can provide the international assistance to design the training modules. Accordingly, the work plan will be revised to address these needs.

The SGM agreed with these proposals.

Furthermore, the following issues were agreed upon under these outputs concerning training:

The SGM agreed to either merge or for practical reasons keep these outputs separate during the revision of the work plan.

The next training under output 4.1 on SIMS should be held in western Georgia, and will include the prosecutors from western regions;

The second study visit under output 4 will include law enforcement, i.e. policemen and prosecutors;

Under Output 5, Ms Natia Gvazava from the Ministry of the Interior expressed the Ministry of the Interior's interest to have training on Code of Conduct for the general inspection unit within the ministry. A pilot seminar will be held, which may later result in developing a training manual.

Conclusions

At the end of the meeting, apart from the agreed proposals mentioned above, the Steering Group decided on three core issues as outlined in the proposal:

1. GEPAC project shall be extended until 31 March 2010 in order to proceed with the implementation of the activities. The necessary administrative procedure to realise this will be completed by the Council of Europe;
2. The Project Workplan and Calendar of Activities should be updated. The Council of Europe Secretariat and the partner institutions shall prepare a revised Workplan and Calendar of Activities, and submit it to the Project main counterpart institution and donor for comments and approval;
3. The Council of Europe Secretariat can proceed with the recruitment of a second National Long Term Advisor in consultation with the donor and the beneficiary.