DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project title	Strengthening Drug and Addictions Policies and Their Implementation in Georgia (VC/4651)
Country/region	Georgia
Budget	EUR 250,000 (secured: EUR 210,000)
Donor	Voluntary Contributions
Duration	12 months (1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027)
Partners and beneficiaries	The primary beneficiaries are children, adolescents and young adults in Georgia, as well as their parents and caregivers. The project also benefits psychologists, social workers, school resource officers, probation officers and Special Penitentiary Service staff by strengthening their capacity to deliver evidence-based prevention and treatment programmes. Women with substance use disorders at the Women's Penitentiary Facility in Rustavi are a specific target group of the therapeutic community initiative. Georgian authorities working on drug prevention, gambling regulation, mental health and education benefit from policy dialogue and international expertise. Main partners include the Special Penitentiary Service; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs; Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Youth; National Centre for Disease Control; Office of the Public Defender; Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions; National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation, Execution of Non-Custodial Sentences and Probation; Revenue Service; and LEPL Agency for State Care and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking.
Main objective and objectives	The project aims to contribute to enhanced wellbeing, health and protection of children, adolescents and young adults in Georgia through drug policy implementation underpinned by human rights and evidence-based approaches. It has two complementary

	objectives: to support enhanced integration of balanced, human rights and evidence-based approaches into the design of policies addressing online and digital addiction; and to strengthen such approaches in the implementation of programmes addressing risks and harms of drug use and of prevention interventions addressing drug use among children, adolescents and young adults.
Expected results	By the end of the project: • The network of Positive Parenting Programme facilitators is expected to have expanded to municipalities across Georgia, supporting delivery in all 14 Georgian penitentiary facilities, state institutions and local communities. • Preparations for a launch of pilot Therapeutic Community at the Women's Penitentiary Facility in Rustavi are expected to be completed. This includes training the Special Penitentiary Service's multidisciplinary team, recommending a legislative framework and establishing peer exchange with international practitioners. • A coordinated national policy process on digital addictions is expected to have begun, with key Georgian institutions having reached a shared understanding of the challenge and agreed on priority directions for a national policy response to online gambling and gaming disorder.
Key activities	The project is implemented by the Human Rights and Justice Cooperation Department (HRJCD) of the Council of Europe, in close cooperation with the Council of Europe Office in Tbilisi and a wide range of national institutional partners. It works through a combination of capacity-building activities — training, peer-to-peer learning, study visits and expert consultations — and policy-level interventions, including legislative working groups, multi-stakeholder roundtables and Steering Committee Meetings. A Project Assistant based in Tbilisi ensures day-to-day coordination with national partners and logistical organisation of all in-country activities. All interventions are grounded in human rights and evidence-based approaches, with gender mainstreaming applied across all three thematic directions.