

Launch of the Project Action in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Personal Data Protection

On 7 December 2021, the Council of Europe Project “Strengthening Media Freedom, Internet Governance and Personal Data Protection” SMIP-GE launched the Project Action in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Personal Data Protection, which will be implemented in cooperation with the State Inspector’s Service of Georgia (national data protection authority).

The Project Action envisages use of the Council of Europe expertise to build the capacity of the State Inspector’s Service in the field of Artificial Intelligence. This involves research, training and policy development for the institution. As a result of the series of activities, the State Inspector’s Service will have improved skills and knowledge to monitor Artificial Intelligence tools vis-à-vis personal data protection in Georgia.

The Project Action is inspired by the increased use of Artificial Intelligence tools in the country by various private and public organisations and the subsequent need to ensure protection of privacy and personal data while using these tools.

The Project Action launch was held in the online format and gathered up to 50 representatives of the public, private, academic, international and civil society organisations.

The event was opened by **Stefan Sirbu**, Deputy Head of the Council of Europe Office in Georgia and **Sophio Jiadze**, Deputy State Inspector of Georgia. The aim of the event was twofold: (1) mapping the envisaged activities in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Personal Data Protection enabling other stakeholders to coordinate their respective plans/actions; (2) inviting all interested stakeholders to actively cooperate and engage in the Project Action promoting its transparency and inclusive decision-making by the State Inspector’s Service. The event discussion resulted in liaising among key government institutions and agreeing on further cooperation and coordination in light of Artificial Intelligence policy development in the country.

The Project Action launch was organised in the framework of the Council of Europe Project “Strengthening Media Freedom, Internet Governance and Personal Data Protection” financed under the Council of Europe Action Plan for Georgia 2021-2023.