

## News in Brief:



In September 2013, Investigation Service of the Ministry of Finance with the support of the PAO and PAO support project finalized the elaboration of the Twinning project fiche: "Capacity Building of the Investigation Service of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia". This is 21 months project with euro 1.26 million budget. The fiche is submitted to the EC for consideration.

On September 30 2013 was the last day for receiving the proposals from the Member States in response to the call for proposals for the Twinning project "Institutional Strengthening of the State Audit Office of Georgia". As a result one proposal was received from German-Polish consortium.

On July 17 2013 the 4<sup>th</sup> RTA workshop took place at the PAO, organized by the PAO support project in cooperation with the OSMEEAL. RTA Assistants also participated in this meeting, as the previous meeting caused big interest from their side and it was considered that sharing the experience among assistants is also important and beneficial. In total 7 RTAs together with their assistants participated in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the EUD.

On July 9 2013 EUD launched a call for proposals for a Twinning Project: "Strengthening Administration Capacity of the Georgian Revenue Service in Taxation". The deadline for receiving proposals from the MS is 14 October 2013. This is 18 months project with euro 1.3 million budget.

On 30 September 2013 - 03 October 2013 a TAIEX Expert Mission on Development of Effective Environmental Health Systems took place. The aim of the assistance was to support the policy

reform through providing knowledge on EU best practices regarding effective environmental health systems. The beneficiary institution was the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia -The National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health.

On 24-26 September 2013 a TAIEX Expert Mission on anti-corruption took place. The aim of the assistance was to exchange of knowledge and best practice regarding fighting corruption. The beneficiary institution was the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

On 19-20 September 2013 a Multi-beneficiary TAIEX workshop on intelligence gathering and data analysis for tax fraud investigations took place. The aim of the assistance was to acquire knowledge on intelligence gathering procedures, data analysis and information processing. The beneficiary institution was the Ministry of Finance.

On 6-7 June 2013 a Multi-country TAIEX workshop on sharing experience and recommendations on EU-Georgia Visa Dialogue took place. The aim of the assistance was to share experience and recommendations on EU-Georgia Visa Dialogue. The beneficiary institution was the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

On 29-30 May 2013 a TAIEX Workshop on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour took place. The aim of the assistance was to exchange knowledge and best practice regarding all aspects of managing violent spectators. The beneficiary institution was the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

On 20-24 May 2013 a TAIEX Expert Mission on approximation of Georgia's legislation to the acquis took place. The aim of the assistance was to exchange knowledge and experience with regard to approximation with EU legislation. The beneficiary institution was the Office of the State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration.

## SIGMA Becomes More Active in Supporting Civil Service Reform in Georgia



In September SIGMA experts Ms. Airi Alakivi, Mr. Hans-Achim Roll and Mr. Joakim Robertsson paid visits to

Georgia.

The missions aimed to participate in the second meeting of the Government Coordination Council for the Civil Service Reform, to hold a workshop for the intergovernmental working group under the Government Coordination Council as well as to participate in the donor coordination meeting on the Civil Service Reform organised by the Chancellery of the Government of Georgia, in order to give an overview of the Civil Service Reform Concept development process, identify common interests and generate synergy among different donors.

SIGMA experts had discussions with the Chancellery of the Government and other officials regarding widening the Civil Service Reform in terms of Public Administration Reform PAR in a broader sense. There is also a requirement to extend the awareness and understanding in Georgia on issues related to development of PAR, as well as its priorities, coordination and leadership of the process.

The workshop of the expert-level working group held on September 12, concentrated on the main conclusions and recommendations of the SIGMA's review of the current Civil Service Law of Georgia and Policy Options for the Civil Service.

The workshop participants reflected also on the issues that were raised during discussions: 1) scope of the civil service (central administration, regional

and local administrations); 2) central management capacity of the civil service; 3) sustainability of the civil service in case government changes; The experts believe that the reform should focus on creation of better opportunities for public servants to serve the society much more efficiently.

As a result of discussions during the above-mentioned meetings it's been agreed that SIGMA will provide comprehensive comments and recommendations on the draft White Paper on Civil Service Reform to be developed by the USAID Good Governance Programme, and participate in further discussions to facilitate the process of developing the Concept of the reform and its Action Plan in order to insure that the final Civil Service Reform Concept will be in line with the European principles and good practices.

## Kick-off Conference of the Twinning Project "Support to the Institutional Development of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia"

On July 15, 2013 a kick-off conference for the EU funded Twinning Project "Support to the Institutional Development of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia," took place in the premises of the Ministry



Mr. Merab Bochoidze, Ms. Marine Mizandari, Mr. Guram Odisharia, Mr. Boris Iarochevitch, Mr. Gianni Bonazzi,

of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. The project is implemented in the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia (NACHPG) and is led by the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities of Italy, in cooperation with the Danish Agency for Culture and the Foromez PA - (Centre for Services, Assistance, Studies and Training for the Modernization of the PA).

TWINNING project has the duration of 18 months and aims to improve the governance in the field of Cultural Heritage protection, through strengthening the capacities of the NACHPG, and to enhance the legal framework regulating the sector by transferring the EU best practices.

The audience was welcomed by the Minister of Culture Mr. Guram Odisharia. Ms. Marine Mizandari, the Deputy Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia addressed the audience with the opening

remarks.

Speeches were delivered by the Deputy Head of Delegation of the EU to Georgia Mr. Boris Iarochevitch, by Mr. Roman Kakulia, the Head of the Programme Administration Office, by the Italian Ambassador H.E. Federica Favi and the Honorary Consul of Denmark Mr. Esben Emborg.

The importance of launching the TWINNING in the field of culture in the wider shape of country's social-economic development and the advantages of the Italian-Danish consortium were underlined by the speakers.

The project leaders: Mr. Merab Bochoidze and Mr. Gianni Bonazzi, the RTA Mr. Alessandro Bianchi and the RTA counterpart Mr. Ivane Vashakmadze also addressed the event participants introducing the project and providing insights of its aims and purposes.

## Different

On 24 September 2013 in the premises of the State Chancellery of Georgia the Donor Coordination Roundtable was organized by the EU Assistance Coordination Department of the Office of the State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration in cooperation with its Support Project. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the existing challenges of donor coordination and the possible solution to the current problems. The representatives of various donor organizations and Government institutions shared their experiences among each other.

On September 19-20 with the help of the PAO Support project, the Deputy State Minister of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Ms. Mariam Rakviashvili visited Brussels to attend the Annual Conference "Institution Building Days" organized by the EC.

Conference was dedicated to sharing updated information regarding the EU support instruments such as Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA and the ways of improvement of their operation in EU partner countries.

On 24 July 2013 in the office of the State Chancellery of Georgia the meeting with the CIB beneficiary administrations was held by the EU Assistance Coordination Department of the Office of the State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration in cooperation with its Support Project. The objective of the meeting was to determine the current status of the existing IRPs, the possible need of their update and the potential of the above documents as the long-term policy documents of the beneficiary Institutions.

### The PAO Contact information:

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## The seventh Twinning project is closed in Georgia - "Support the Emergency Management Department in Development of Emergency Services in Georgia"

On July 12, 2013 the Twinning project "Support the Emergency Management Department in Development of Emergency Services in Georgia" presented its achievements to the audience gathered for the project's closing ceremony at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.



Mr. Shalva Papuashvili, GIZ and Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze, UNDP

The project launched a year ago was funded by the European Union with € 800,000 and aimed to support Emergency Management Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to improve management skills during disasters.

This particular project was excellent example of cooperation among implementing partner agencies: French General Directorate for Civil Protection and Crisis Management and Fire/Rescue Department under the Ministry of Interior of Lithuania and Georgian colleagues from the Ministry of

Internal Affairs.

The project comprised of four components: preparation of the risk maps for Emergency management Department and development of reaction mechanisms, improvement of civil protection legislation and existing regulations, enforcing prevention activities and capacities on the national level and raising awareness of population on existing risks. Project determined sharing experience in the field of civil protection and emergency situations. Foreign experts provided Georgian colleagues with recommendations in the field of civil protection and relevant instructions have been drafted.

The participants of the event were welcomed by project leaders Mr. Zviad Katsashvili, BA project leader, Director of Emergency Management Department and Mr. Philippe Nardin, MS partner project leader, Head of International Relations Mission under the Civil Security Directorate. Resident Twinning Adviser Mr. Jean-Fred Crouillard presented outcomes and results achieved within the frames of the project. French and Lithuanian partners spoke about future plans in regards to sustain development of Emergency Services in Georgia.

Participants of the Conference



## Kick-off Event of the Agency of Protected Areas Twinning project

On Wednesday, 12 June 2013, presentation of the new Twinning project "Strengthening the Management of Protected Areas of Georgia" was held at the Tbilisi Marriott hotel. During 24 month the Agency of Protected Areas will be assisted by Austrian-Czech Consortium together with the Czech Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Austrian Environmental Agency in under the leadership of the Austrian Federal Forests.

The € 1.1 million project aims at strengthening the effective nature conservation system of Georgia through improved management of protected areas of Georgia in order to enable the Agency to implement procedures for the management planning that conform to European best practice.

The meeting was opened by the Minister of Environment

and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, Ms. Khatuna Gogaladze; the chairman of the Agency of Protected Areas Mr. Rati Japaridze made an overview of activities within the Agency and spoke about future plans. He underlined the importance of the project and expressed his hope for successful cooperation with Austrian and Czech partners. Mr. Boris Iarochevitch, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Georgia spoke about the EU-Georgia cooperation agenda and encouraged Georgia's effort to build partnership with MS countries. Ms. Mariam Rakviashvili, Deputy State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, emphasized the importance of Twinning projects for Georgia as a means to work towards European practices and standards.

In their presentations Mr. Mike Garforth, Resident Twinning Adviser and his counterpart Ms. Tamar Kvantaliani gave details about the project's outline, described precisely each three components and foreseen activities.

The event passed in a very interactive manner interesting discussions took place among nongovernmental sector, international organization representatives and the Agency of Protected Areas.

As a conclusion it was once again highlighted that the project will support sustainable development of Georgia's protected areas system in the course of combining and balancing the interests of nature conservation and protection and the social-economic needs of local communities.

Participants of the Conference

