

Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA in Georgia

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News in Brief:

Twinning Contract negotiations started

The second call for proposals proved successful for the Civil Aviation Department of the United Transport Administration: German-Austrian consortium, Sweden and Spain expressed their interest in the Twinning project.

After careful consideration, the Twinning Selection Committee has preferred the German-Austrian Twinning partners. The beneficiary administration and the selected Twinning partners have started Twinning Contract negotiations. It is expected the Twinning project on harmonizing Georgian civil aviation legislation with EU standards will commence in January 2010.

New call for Twinning proposals launched

Three Georgian administrations finalized and agreed their Twinning Fiches. On 25th of June, 2010, these were circulated by EU Delegation in Georgia to relevant EU Member States administrations.

Through the call for proposals, the Revenue Service expects to find a Twinning partner for a project on strengthening the national customs and sanitary-phyto-sanitary border control system in Georgia.

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources put forward a Twinning project 'Support the Improvement of Waste and Chemical Management System in Georgia'.

Georgian National Agency for Standards, Technical Regulations and Metrology plans to get in cooperation with EU Member State partners for strengthening of the metrology and standardisation infrastructure according to the best practice in the EU member states.

Deadline for Twinning proposals is set on 24th of September, 2010.

Networking Session with Focal Points

On 4th of June, 2010, Programme Administration Office in association with the Project Team of *Support to Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA PAO in Georgia* held a coordination meeting with Focal Points representing line ministries and institutions of the Georgian administration.

During the meeting, the PAO made an overview of progress on Twinning project implementation, discussed ENPI 2007-2010 budget allocation principles. Particular attention paid on improving Focal Points' knowledge of principles of project preparation and Twinning fiche elaboration process.

New institutional Twinning project in the field of culture commenced

The Georgian National Museum together with their German Twinning partner of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation welcomes their guests to the kick off meeting



Invitees of the kick off meeting of the Twinning project "Support to the Institutional Development of the Georgian National Museum"

The 22nd of June, 2010 marked a new stage for the Georgian National Museum. In the Kick-off meeting, the European Union funded Georgian-German Twinning project "Support to the Institutional Development of the Georgian National Museum" was presented to the project stakeholders and the public at large.

The project being unique in its nature since institutional Twinning in the field of culture is a rarity. As the first Twinning project in the field of culture, the event attracted attention of key project stakeholders: academic society, charity organisations, public administration and politicians; as well as Georgian media who provided a wide coverage of the occasion.



The Project Leaders Professor Hermann Parzinger and Professor Davit Lordkipanidze

For the presentation, the Director General of the Georgian National Museum Professor Davit Lordkipanidze, who is also Project Leader of the Twinning project on the beneficiary side, was joined by a number of honourable guests. H.E. Per Eklund, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia wished a great success to the project partners. German Ambassador to Georgia, H.E. Ortwin Hennig, emphasised the importance of the project to development of further cultural links between Georgia and Germany and the EU. The President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation in Berlin and the Project Leader on the German side, Professor Hermann Parzinger used the opportunity to introduce the institutions and museums the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation unites.

Partners with long traditions

The European side in the Twinning project is represented by the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation that unites the National Museums in Berlin, the Berlin State Library,

the Privy State Archives, the Ibero-American Institute and the Institute for Music Research. The Foundation is a state institution, which takes care after cultural heritage, conservation-restoration, expanding collection and scientific research. With its history beginning in 1830, the National Museums are one of the biggest cultural institutions in Germany and their collections include fine arts exhibits of international importance.

The main beneficiary – the Georgian National Museum – has its roots from 1852 when the Caucasus Department of the Geographic Society of the Russian Empire was opened in Tbilisi. At the moment it unites 10 important museums, 2 scientific institutions and the National Gallery. The Georgian National Museum holds rich and diverse collections of natural history, geology, archaeology, ethnography, numismatic, fine and applied art as well as photo and video archives.

Ambitious project and the vision

The Twinning project opens a unique possibility for collaboration and introducing best international practices in the fields of museum's buildings planning, collection removal and the restoration and conservation of objects. This includes the final stage of museum reform comprising of development of the restoration-conservation centre.



The German Project Leader and President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation in Berlin, Professor Hermann Parzinger and Dr. Bernd Ebert Co—Project Leader

One of the central focuses of the project is to smooth the progress of the development of the Museum Street in Tbilisi. The finest example of a unique urban phenomenon is the Museumsinsel (Museum Island), belonging to the Twinning partner institution in Berlin. It is an area on the island between the Spree River and the Kupfergraben, where five museums buildings are located. This ensemble of museum buildings illustrates the evolution of modern museum design over more than a century.

To achieve the aims, Dr. Manfred Nawroth is seconded by the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation to Tbilisi for 21 months as the Resident Twinning Advisor. He will be supported by about 40 German experts, experienced in the development of the Museumsinsel as well as other fields of the museum organisation, who will work side-by-side with their Georgian counterparts. The experience of the German specialists and their cooperation with the Georgian experts should add a further step in the establishment of the Museum Street.

Workshops for Twinning Beneficiary Administrations

A series of workshops to Georgian Beneficiary Administrations held at the initiative of Programme Administration Office delivered good practices on management of a Twinning project and made the first step towards sharing knowledge and experience among the beneficiaries.

On 11th of June, 2010 Programme Administration Office and Project Team of EU-funded Support to Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA Programme Administration Office in Georgia launched the first cycle of group training events to Georgian beneficiary institutions. A series of workshops were held to address key theoretical and practical issues as well as challenges Georgian beneficiary administrations of institutional Twinning instrument may face at different stages of Twinning project preparation and implementation.

From group training to individual advice

One training cycle includes specific workshops of (1) How to Prepare a Twinning Fiche, (2) How to Select a Twinning Partner, and (3) How to Negotiate a Twinning Contract. In accordance with methodology applied, the workshops as training events for groups of different beneficiary administrations are designed to make an introduction on specific issues pertinent to a certain stage of Twinning project preparation and implementation. Later, the workshops are followed by on-the-job training sessions with individual institutions.

Targeted to already nominated and would-be Project Leaders and Resident Twinning Adviser Counterparts, the workshops held on 11th and



Participants of the workshop

17th of June, 2010 were all well received by high interest of Georgian beneficiary administrations: 3 workshops were attended by 39 participants representing 15 different institutions of Georgian public administration.

Key message: "It's your project"

During the workshops the PAO representatives - Ms. Tamar Beruchashvili, Deputy Minister of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and Mr. Roman Kakulia, Head of Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA PAO, discussed the roles of PAO in the management of Twinning projects. They also emphasised the rationale of institutional building instruments: Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA have proven their success in the recent EU enlargement process and are extended to Georgia within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The Project Team - Mr. Erikas Jankauskas, Team Coordinator, and Mr. Viktoras Zabolotnas, Short Term Expert discussed institutional Twinning principles: Twinning project cycle, roles and

responsibilities of key actors, benefits and shortcomings vis-a-vis classical technical assistance service contracts. As well, specific issues of Twinning fiche elaboration, Twinning partner selection and Twinning Contract negotiation were talked extensively. Participants were very much interested in practical aspects and hints Mr. Zabolotnas could share out of his experience as a Project Leader of a number of Twinning projects on a beneficiary institution side.

Mr. Nodar Surguladze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, made a short speech regarding CEIBAL Twinning project and shared his experiences and observations with Beneficiary Administrations.

He emphasised importance of a realistic project that public administration is able to implement given human and financial resources it has at hand. His key advice was to drop expectations that EU Member State is in a position to replace Georgian administration: what is completed through a Twinning project is accomplished by the beneficiary itself in close cooperation and support of the partners.

Selected Recent TAIEX Workshops in Georgia

National Bureau of Enforcement of Georgia

held a conference on Enforcement Systems and Proceedings on 15-16th of April, 2010 in Tbilisi. The assistance to arrange the event was provided by TAIEX. It was a large-scale event with the number of participants of 60 persons (Georgian and international participants) and covered the problematic issues of enforcement in Georgia. The conference was also dedicated to share the best practice of the EU Member State countries and Israel in the mentioned field.

On 1-2nd of July, 2010, with the support of TAIEX tool **Supreme Court of Georgia** organized a workshop on e-justice: perspectives and problems. The workshop was opened by Mr. Konstantin Kublashvili, the Chairman of the Supreme Court and H.E. Per Eklund, Head of European Union to Georgia. The goal of the workshop was to share the EU experience in the field of modern electronic case management system and also to discuss the current Georgian cases, as one of the main priority of the recent court reform of Georgia is the development of e-justice. The representatives of Justice System from various countries were taking part in the workshop and presented the automation system of courts and electronic legal communications of their countries.

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development using TAIEX tool organized a workshop; the aim of the workshop was to provide information and training to Georgian authorities on the concepts, conditions and requirements of Pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin. The workshop took place on 12-13th July, 2010 in Tbilisi.

Upcoming Twinning Projects

Two additional Twinning Fiches are at final stages of consultations, and expected to be circulated to EU Member States in September/October 2010:

The National Bureau of Enforcement of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia aims through the twinning instrument to develop and improve the legislative base for the effective law enforcement system in Georgia;

The Department of Tourism and Resorts of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia anticipates to review

and upgrade current legal framework so that it could respond to current realities of the tourism sector in Georgia.

PAO and EU Delegation have been discussing a number of Twinning ideas from the following institutions:

- ◊ Emergency Management Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- ◊ Georgian Accreditation Centre of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development;
- ◊ National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia;
- ◊ State Procurement Agency;
- ◊ Georgian National Energy and Water Regulatory Commission;
- ◊ Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice;
- ◊ Communications, Informational Technologies and Innovation Department of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development;
- ◊ Agency of Protected Areas, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
- ◊ Forestry Agency of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
- ◊ Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs;
- ◊ National Intellectual Property Centre "Sakpatenti".

Tentatively, the annual Twinning programme will be finally agreed in September 2010.

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