

# Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA in Georgia

December 2011 №8

A quarterly newsletter published by Support to PAO Project — funded by European Union

## News in Brief:

### **TWINNING**

#### **Results of Twinning partner selection**

On November 14, 2011 Twinning partner selection in relation to the project under implementation at the Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC) was completed. Out of 2 Twinning proposals received (Austria and Slovakia), the Austrian proposal was considered to be better suited for further partnership with the Georgian beneficiary administration.

By November 9, 2011 (the deadline for Twinning proposals in relation to the project at the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia) 5 EU Member States (Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy in a consortium with Denmark, and Latvia) have responded to the call. The Agency, together with the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, expects to complete the Twinning partner selection by the end of December 2011.



## New Twinning project kicked off in Tbilisi

*The Georgian National Agency for Standards, Technical Regulations and Metrology has started a Twinning project to support its efforts to achieve international recognition in order to contribute to the reduction of technical barriers to trade and to facilitate the integration of Georgia into the global market.*



On the 2nd of November 2011, the Georgian National Agency for Standards, Technical Regulations and Metrology (GEOSTM), under the umbrella of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (MESD), in cooperation with their Twinning partners Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB, Germany) and the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM, Germany) under the coordination of the Federal Ministry of Economy and Technology of Germany and the Lithuanian Standards Boards (LST), held the Opening Conference of the new Twinning project "Strengthening of the metrology and standardisation infrastructure according to the best practice in EU member states".

This 2 year project with a budget of EUR 1.4 million will accelerate the progress towards mutual recognition in the field of conformity assessment, as well as the improvement of the quality of Georgian products. This will be achieved by promoting the use of Community technical regulations (and the application of European standards conformity assessment procedures) and by facilitating the sharing of experience and technical information in the field of quality management.

The Opening Conference was moderated by the beneficiary Project Leader Ms. Lali Gogoberidze. Mr. Irakli Matkava, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, along with Mr. Boris Iarochewitch, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union, as well as Ms Susana Radisic, representative of the German Ministry of Economy, held welcoming speeches. They underlined the importance of strengthening the Georgian Quality Infrastructure to promote the development of the Georgian economy and to facilitate further cooperation between the EU and Georgia.

The MS Project Leader, Mr Harry Stolz, confirmed that the mandatory outcomes of the current project have been achieved. These include the preparation of the GEOSTM, MoESD and interested parties for the further development of legal metrology in Georgia, the implementation of an internationally recognized quality management system for GEOSTM calibration services, the establishment of a fully operational WTO TBT enquiry point with identification, and the adoption of the relevant international standards and documents as well as the preparation of the GEOSTM for business development. The RTA counterpart, Nino Miknadze, gave an overview about the structure and the main tasks of the GEOSTM.

About 70 participants with the representatives from the Georgian Ministries, the economic sector, non-governmental organizations, as well as the Georgian National Quality Council took part in this event.

## New institutional Twinning project in the field of border control commenced



*The Georgia Revenue Service together with their Danish, Estonian and Italian partners of Custom and Food Safety Authorities welcomes their guests to the Kick Off Conference*



On the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2011, the kick off conference for the EU funded Twinning Project "Strengthening the National Custom and Sanitary-Phytosanitary Border Control System in Georgia" was held.

This 18 month Twinning project is a so-called double Twinning, meaning that two separate (but related) projects for the same beneficiary and two Resident Twinning Advisers are being implemented simultaneously.

The event was attended by several key project stakeholders from the Ministry of Finance and the Prime Minister's Office, as well as the Georgian media, who provided wide coverage of the kick off meeting. For the presentation, the Deputy Director General of Georgia Revenue Service, Ms. Lily Begiashvili, who also is project leader on the beneficiary side, was joined by a number of honourable

guests. The Minister of Finance of Georgia, Mr. Dimitri Gvindadze, wished great success to the project partners and emphasized the importance of bringing the Georgian legislation in line with EU requirements.

The Deputy Head of the delegation to the European Union to Georgia, H.E. Mr. Boris Iarochewitch, mentioned the importance of the project to the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade negotiations. Diplomatic representatives from the three member states, H.E. Toomas Lukk, Ambassador of Estonia to Georgia, H.E. Ms. Federica Favi, Ambassador of Italy to Georgia and Mr. Esben Emborg, Honorary Consul of Denmark to Georgia, all emphasized the good relations between their respective countries and Georgia. The Danish project leader, Mr. Poul Hansen, Head of Division Central Tax and Customs Administration, thanked those in attendance for the opportunity to implement the project and presented the three project leaders, Mr. Sandro Le Noci, Italian Customs Agency, Ms. Annika Magipold, Estonian Tax and Custom Board

and Mr. Torsten Berg, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. The two RTAs, Mr. Antonio Lo Parco (Italy) and Mr. Allan Bagge (Denmark) gave a brief overview of the activities in respect to both the custom and the sanitary-phytosanitary components of the project.

The twin overall objectives of this Twinning project are the development and implementation of modern customs and sanitary-phyto-sanitary (SPS) border controls based on EU best practice.

The project has two sub-projects, which follow logically from the twin overall objectives. Sub-project 'A' concerns development of modern customs control procedures; Sub-project 'B' concerns the development and implementation of SPS border control procedures.

To achieve the aims of the project the two RTAs will be seconded by a pool of 75 Danish, Estonian and Italian short-term experts.

## SIGMA Facilitates Networking of Practitioners from EU Neighbouring Countries

*Representatives from the Programme Administration Office and other Georgian institutions presented their experience in reforming Georgia's public administration and introducing the e-governance system.*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> networking seminar jointly organised by OECD and the European Commission on November 24-25, 2011, brought together representatives of EU neighbouring countries involved in the reform of their public administrations. The purpose of the network seminar was to discuss the main issues concerning public governance reform in the light of the changing political context, as well as to support the emergence of a community of practice on public governance reform.

Georgia was represented by Mr. Roman Kakulia, the Head of PAO, and partners from the Ministry of Fi-



*Mr. Bob Bonwitt, Head of SIGMA and Georgian delegation; Mr. Roman Kakulia, Ms. Sophie Kereselidze, Mr. Davit Shoshitashvili and Mr. Aleksandre Kacharava*

nance, the Civil Service Bureau and the Government Chancellery of Georgia.

SIGMA experts proposed inviting a Georgian representative to speak at the seminar, as there is widespread interest in the experiences that Georgia has made in facilitating public administration reforms. Ms. Sophie Kereselidze, Head of Civil Service Reform and Development Department of the Civil Service Bureau, introduced the reforms made during last years in Georgia: new Civil Service Code, e-governance program that ensures efficient and capable management tools, a pilot initiative on electronic document exchange programme, effective HR functions, and accountability measures (which serve as an important anticorruption tool). The presentation received a round of applause from the seminar participants and warm praise for presenter's skills was given.

As recognized by the PAO representative, the seminar provided the participants with a unique chance to gain information and improve their knowledge about the reforms currently underway in other EU neighbouring countries. The why and how of the reforms being conducted was explained, which in turn encouraged the participants to consider and discuss potential ideas for new projects while reflecting on their individual public administration systems.

## PAO networks with Twinning Project Beneficiary Administrations

*Two seminars in November and December opened initiatives of the Programme Administration Office (PAO) to build a firm "Twinning community" in Georgia.*

In cooperation with the project team of the EU-funded project "Support to the Strengthening of the Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA Program Administration Office (PAO) in Georgia", the PAO held two Twinning partners networking seminars in November and December, 2011. The aim of these events was to bring together and establish a "Twinning community" in Georgia: Resident Twinning Advisers (RTA) living and working in Georgia, Project Leaders and RTA Counterparts of the Georgian Twinning beneficiary institutions, the PAO and the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia (EUD).

The first of these events gathered representatives from the Georgian Twinning beneficiary administrations to share their knowledge and experiences in using the instrument for achievement of institutional



*Workshop participants: Ms. Guranda Goglidze, Mr. Nugzar Beridze, Mr. Gocha Shonia, Mr. Paata Sirbiladze and Ms. Nata Goderdzishvili*

building objectives. For this purpose the PAO invited "advanced" administrations – the Ministry of Education and Science, the National Museum, the National Bureau of Enforcement, the Revenue Service and the Georgian Accreditation Centre – to make comprehensive presentations and give fine details about Twinning partner selection, contract negotiation and project implementation.

A presentation of Mr. Nodar Surguladze, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Project

Leader of the Capacity Enhancement for Implementing the Bologna Action Lines Twinning project, received high interest of other participants. The



*Workshop participants: Mr. Antonio Lo Parco-RTA, Tamara Schramm-RTA and Mr. Ivane Vashakmadze-RTA Counterpart*

Twinning project he led is the only one in Georgia that has already finished until today. Mr. Surguladze admitted that "Twinning is a useful instrument when one exactly knows one's needs and goals". His key advice to other institutions starting a Twinning project was to identify such a project that can be implemented by the beneficiary administration alone – Twinning partners from EU member states can support in shortening the time to reach the goal. Moreover the presenter gave very useful tips on importance of political will, handling of project steering committees and managing inputs of short-term experts from EU member states.

The second networking seminar additionally involved RTAs who currently are seconded to the Georgian beneficiary administrations. Participants discussed the benefits of Twinning projects beyond the mandatory results as defined in the contracts; spoke about challenges and opportunities that RTA usually encounters in beneficiary countries; talked about specific examples of cooperation extending beyond activities of Twinning projects.

Following these seminars, the PAO in Georgia is trying to establish a tradition of regular networking meetings of the Twinning project partners and continue when new Twinning projects start in 2012.

## News in Brief:

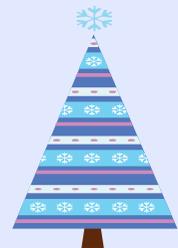
### TAIEX agenda

**The expert mission on climate change and UNFCCC negotiation process** took place on November 7 -9, 2011. The aim of the assistance was to discuss issues related to the UNFCCC negotiation process and the related mechanisms to fight against climate change. The beneficiary institution was the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia.

**The expert mission on the development of occupational health and safety system** took place on November 28 - December 2, 2011. The aim of the mission was to make proposals for the development an effective occupational health and safety system in Georgia in line with EU standards, to strengthen the administrative capacities of the relevant institutions in the sphere of health protection and safety at work. The request was made by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia in coordination with N. Makhviladze Research Institute of Labour Medicine and Ecology.



*Georgian PAO is taking this opportunity to wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



### **Contact information:**

*Mr. Roman Kakulia, PAO Director*

*Mr. David Kalatozishvili, Twinning Project Officer*

*Programme Administration Office (PAO)*

*Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration  
#7, Ingorokva Street,  
Tbilisi 0134, Georgia*

*Tel: 995 32 2 933 898 ,  
995 32 2 931 402,  
995 32 2 998 914*

