

“STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF GEORGIA”

UNDP Proposal: 00034245
UNDP Projects: 00036279, 00041626, 00054725
UNDP Sector: Governance
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Background:

Georgia lacks the human and institutional capacity to rapidly adapt and absorb new policy frameworks to enhance democratic governance and citizen participation in development processes. However, the President, the leadership of the Parliament, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and of the State Department on IT's revealed new initiatives in promoting modern management systems with ICT-component mainstreamed in it. The project builds on the experience of five related UNDP projects: 1) Improvement of Public Administration System for Democratic Governance Development; 2) Modernization of Administrative System of Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 3) Modernization of Financial System; 4) Support for Democratic Governance in Imereti Region; 5) ICTD Framework for Georgia. The project is a pilot initiative to develop and use e-tools to facilitate intra-governmental coordination and, thereby, efficiency and transparency. It will help to facilitate participation in the decision-making process and policy dialogue increasing accountability of the Government. The project can be replicated in other countries of Southern Caucasus.

Objective:

The overall objective of the project is to increase the capacity of the parliamentary bodies and the central Government to exercise accountable and efficient public management. This overall objective will be achieved through better alignment of executive and legislative branches of power, ensuring the transparency of decision-making, policy dialogue and better public accountability. Advanced methodology and e-tools will be used in order to achieve the objective. This includes creation of nets and provision of modern hardware and software, as well as training for public servants.

Activities:

- To strengthen the law making process
- To improve the internal organization of the Parliament;
- To strengthen institutional capacity to develop regulatory and legal policies;
- To strengthen public management skills and capabilities;
- To improve the document management procedures;
- To implement the corporate *Management Information System*;
- To train the MP and staff on issues related to their roles and responsibilities as well as professional skills development;
- To provide "train the trainers" programs and training courses/sessions for the above Parliamentary and the Governmental agencies; this includes training of civil servants about best practices for effectively delivering public services to the people;
- To strengthen business and technical skills of the civil servants;
- To enhance transparency and responsiveness of the parliamentary processes;
- To provide public institutions with tools both in terms of transfer of technology and transfer of knowledge in order to improve accountability;
- To create new participatory mechanisms and to develop tools for facilitating wider access to public information and networking by citizens and to promote public awareness of government services and information available online;
- To ensure the record of citizen complaints/requests and to track progress through extended net-points and public access terminals at the Parliament, Prime Minister's Office and Georgian National Library.
- To establish overall e-links between the (i) Parliament, (ii) Administration of the President, (iii) Prime Minister's Office, (iv) Ministry of Justice and (v) Georgian National Library via Metropolitan Area Network (Tbilisi MAN) facilities; their provision with computer hardware, peripheral, office, media, net and special equipment;
- To provide the Parliament with Internet service and to enhance its website.

Expected outputs:

- Increased efficiency, transparency and responsiveness of the Parliament and governmental bodies;
- Improved law making process;
- Strengthened public management skills and capabilities;
- Improved document management procedures;
- Increased availability of legal information for the public to enhance their rights and knowledge how to exercise them;
- Establishment of public access points to promote citizen participation in e-governance;
- New Public Network (Tbilisi MAN) and other e-tools used to facilitate coordination between the three branches of power (Legislative, Executive and Judicial) and participation of civil society organizations in decision-making processes;
- Increased number of trained civil servants to enhance good governance;
- Improved implementation of policy guidelines by public officials with increased ICT knowledge;
- Increased number of citizens and officials able to access knowledge resources and documents circulation through nets and websites;
- Increased efficiency and reduced operational costs of the Parliament and the governmental bodies by strengthening their ICT capacities.