



The European Union
for Georgia



EU Twinning *GE/18/ENI/HE/01/19*

“Strengthening Blood Safety System in Georgia”

- **Dr. W. Martin Smid, Managing Director**
- **Sanquin Consulting Services**

This project is funded by the European Union

Sanquin

- Sanquin is the Netherlands blood supply organization
 - only organization licensed.
 - Non profit organization
 - Voluntary non remunerated donors
 - Blood products are supplied to the hospitals based on patiënt need
- mandated body for EU twinning projects



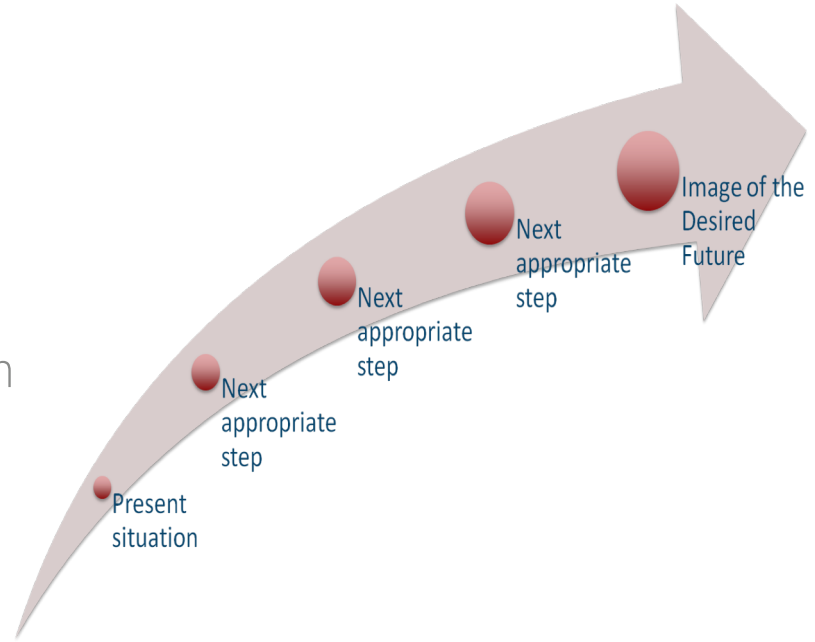
EU Twinning project Georgia: Sanquin contribution

- Sanquin represent the Netherlands being junior partner for this project and collaborates closely with Lithuanian colleagues
- Sanquin has expertise of the whole transfusion chain from donor to patient and international projects
- Specific experience relevant for this project are the centralization process, implementation EU legislation and state of art screening and reference lab:
 - 1998 merger of all blood banks and the central laboratory directed by the minister of health, "lock stock and barrel"
 - Centralization process in steps: 21 > 9 > 4 > 1 took 12 years
 - Centralization of laboratory coincided with introduction of NAT testing and resulted in a state of the art screening laboratory and reference laboratory

Sanquin approach

Schematic of Iterative steps for improvement:

in essence it starts with **picturing the desired future** and an **assessment of the present situation**. From the present and with the end in mind the next appropriate step is designed and basis for a tailor made training plan. The way forward towards the desired future is a process of consecutive appropriate steps.




EU Twinning activities of Sanquin in the project



Activities with Lithuanian and Georgian counterparts

	Consultation	Feb 2020	1 expert, 3 days	
Component 1	Legislation	R 1.1.1	3 experts, 5 days	VidConf
Component 2	Organization of the system	R 2.1.1	3 experts, 2 days	VidConf
		R 2.4.1	2 experts, 2 days	VidConf
		R.2.2.2	2 experts, 4 days	
Component 3	Voluntary non remunerated donors			
Component 4	Capacity strengthening	R 4.1.1	1 expert 5 days	VidConf

Transition

- Present situation:
 - Decentralised, variety of organization forms including commercial, remunerated donation
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- Desired future:
 - Centralized, non-profit, voluntary non-remunerated donation

Quality is key

Quality is about the outcome of the blood transfusion chain for the patient.

- donor health and infectious risks for patients

- product processing and testing

- release and storage

- transfusion medicine and appropriate clinical use of blood

In the end it is about

transfusing the right product at the right time to the patient that needs it

Conclusion

- The project aims to implement the EU directives in Georgia,
- Netherlands blood supply Sanquin is junior partner and is working closely with lead partner Lithuania and the Georgian counterpart for solutions that fit the Georgian situation.
- Activities could start by videoconferencing due to COVID-19



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Blood and **beyond**



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