

**EU-ACT**

**EU Action against Drugs and Organised Crime**

Project funded by the EC

**Dr. Tamar Gabunia**  
**Deputy First Minister**  
**Ministry of IDPs, Labour, health and Social Affairs**  
**Government of Georgia**

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Subject:** Request from the EU Project “**EU-ACT: EU Action against Drugs and Organised Crime**” to nominate individuals in support of upcoming activities

Dear Deputy First Minister,

The Project “**EU-ACT: EU Action against Drugs and Organised Crime**” presents its compliments to you and the Ministry of IDPs, Labour, Health and Social Affairs. This Project is implemented under Phase III of the programme "Fight against organised crime and drug trafficking along the Heroin Routes", financed by the European Union's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)<sup>1</sup>, in the framework of Article 5 of that regulation<sup>2</sup>.

This innovative demand-driven project is designed to promote the comprehensive and balanced EU approach on drugs, and to enhance synergies with the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime. This action under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) is in line with the EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020) and the European Agenda on Security (2015) and shall contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG 16.a), the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document on the World Drug Problem and the 2012 Vienna Declaration.

The EU-ACT Project has been actively working with Ministries and Governmental institutions and organisations in Georgia country since 2017 and we appreciate the co-operation, support and engagement that we have had to date. These partnerships have led to a number of successful activities in the spheres of drug policy, drug related crimes and international cooperation, as well as in the area of treatment and rehabilitation of drug users.

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) no. 230/2014 of the European parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 (OJ L 77/1, 15.03.2014, p. 1)

<sup>2</sup> Assistance in addressing global and trans-regional threats and emerging threats (Long-term actions).

Before finalising the Project in June this year, we would like to support the Centre for Mental Health and Prevention of Addiction (CMHPA) to adopt *Clinical Protocols on polydrug abuse*. This need was previously identified by the management of the CMHPA, who requested the support of the Project to draft these important guidelines that will be beneficial for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of combined consumption of new psychoactive substances. After being reviewed and filtered through the internal channels within the Ministry of Health, these guidelines will be used both by the public and private clinics that deal with drug dependency related matters. The support and active role of your Ministry throughout the consultation and implementation phases will be key in ensuring the success of this activity.

I would therefore like to request your support in nominating one or more representative from the Healthcare Policy Department to attend a joint consultation that will take place between 14-16 April with the international expert Mr. Emilis Subata (Lithuania), the Ministry of Justice, the National Drug Observatory, Georgian NGO's, and academia.

Another activity for which the Project would welcome the expertise and participation of the Ministry is related to the *Overarching Strategy from Penitentiary system to outside*, that aims to address the needs of the released inmates struggling with drug dependency.

Implementation of such a strategy demands co-operation between multiple stakeholders, involved in information exchange and also mapping actual services available in Georgia at field level. Our project will be supporting the Special Penitentiary Service, National Probation Agency and the Ministry of Justice to draft such a strategy with the involvement of one Georgian specialist. That specialist will conduct consultations with the relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations who are active in the field of public health and rehabilitation initiatives for inmates, juveniles with anti-social behaviour, diverted juveniles, adult and juvenile probationers. The strategic document will cover a gap that currently exists in Georgia in relation to harm reduction measures. For this purpose, the Project would again kindly ask your support in nominating one or more representative from the relevant department to take part in the aforementioned consultations (date to be confirmed).

For any other information related to our project activities, please feel free to address the local team in Tbilisi: Regional Coordinator, Ms. Valeria Elefterie ([ke3.fiiapp@eu-act.info](mailto:ke3.fiiapp@eu-act.info)), and the Local Expert Ms. Salome Ugrekhelidze ([le3.fiiapp@eu-act.info](mailto:le3.fiiapp@eu-act.info)).

The Project “**EU-ACT: EU Action against Drugs and Organised Crime**” avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurance of its highest consideration to you and the Ministry of IDPs, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.



Thomas Carter  
Project Team Leader