

TBILISI, GEORGIA

CASE STUDY

In 2004 the President of Georgia established the State Commission for Effective Governance System and Territorial Arrangement Reform which is to be a consultative body for the President who chairs it. In order to serve as a secretariat and analytical body for the State Commission, the Center for Effective Governance System and Territorial Arrangement Reform has been established (March 31, 2006) by the President of Georgia. UNDP was the first main donor that supported the establishment of the Center. Through supporting the Center the project facilitated the first phase of the decentralization which implied development of legal base for improved local self-governance. For the period the center proved to be well organized and having proper expertise in the field which has become crucial for the Parliament while developing laws and amendments and for Ministries that deal with the the Local Self-Government Units. The political leadership decided to lay the burden of coordination and facilitation of the reform and support to the newly established LSG units over the Center which implies huge responsibilities.

One of the main aspects in the work of our Center is to facilitate the development of informational society and an infrastructure of informational technologies that includes, among other things, carrying out research work for the introduction and development of informational technologies, providing incentives for civil initiatives and ideas for creating informational society, preparing and publishing special handbooks and literature on the topic, holding training-consultancy workshops, elaborating respective draft laws and others acts etc.

By the experts of the Center there had been already a few draft documents to start the process of informatization in our country, namely- State Concept for the Informatization of Georgia, Law of Georgia on Informatization of Georgia, Law of Georgia on Electronic Digital Signature, Project Proposal- Electronic Government for Local Self-Governance. These documents are now going to be discussed widely by various entities and donors involved in the sphere of governance and local government. After that relevant laws will be introduced at the Parliament of Georgia to be reviewed and approved.

Our Center is going to work actively on introducing E-Governance in the governance system of our country both at central and local levels. In this respect we are seeking to gain more information about how this process was initiated and developed in other European countries, including Poland, Lithuania, Estonia etc.

Based on the above said, the workshop in Plock on 12-14 March will provide a very good opportunity for us to exchange ideas and experiences with our foreign colleagues in this field and this will be of much benefit for our Center to start the realization of E-Governance initiative with more knowledge-both theoretical and practical- gained at the workshop.