



Civil servants mobility program (CSMP) – Focus Georgia

Prague 2 – 8 November 2014
Budapest 23 – 28 November 2014
Bratislava 24 - 28 November 2014
Warsaw 25 – 29 November 2014

Report

Prague – Justice and home affairs and visa liberalisation

A week-long learning program for three representatives of Georgian ministries was organised by the Institute for European Policy EUROPEUM. It aimed to provide training and experience sharing in the field of JHA and visa liberalisation. Georgia is currently negotiating a visa-free regime with the Schengen area and the implementation of the second action plan is set to be finalized next year. Yet many practical aspects of international cooperation still has to be set into practice and therefore **Maka Botchorishvili** from *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, **Giorgi Gagua** from *Ministry of Justice* and **Ada Nardaia** from *Ministry of Interior* came to Prague to share the experience with their Czech colleagues.

During their stay in Prague, they took part in many meetings with representatives of Czech ministries, parliament and relevant NGOs. The primary goal was to arrange meetings at relevant ministries and with counterparts of our guests– as a result, they met with two representatives of Ministry of Internal Affairs (who talked mainly about human trafficking and Schengen cooperation), spend one morning at the Ministry of Justice (with representatives of Department of International Cooperation, International Civil and Criminal Law Departments who talked mainly about practical arrangements of international cooperation in given fields) and took part in three meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, discussing Schengen Evaluation Mechanism and Civilian EU missions among other. Furthermore, they had a meeting at the Police Presidium of the CR (regarding international police cooperation) and Senate (role of Parliaments in cooperation within EU and Schengen). Our guests also talked to experts from Organization for Aid to Refugees, International Organization for Migration, Association for Integration and Migration or La Strada (NGO dealing with human trafficking). They have also met Senator Tomáš Grulich, who was at that time working on a Declaration

on Georgian territorial integrity in the Committee for EU affairs. On average, the group took part in 3 meetings every day.

Accompanying program, composed of activities such as Prague guided tour, visit of historical building of Senate or various social events, was prepared as well.

Warsaw - Coordination the Association Agreement implementation

From 25 to 29 November Centre for Eastern Studies (Warsaw) in cooperation with the Society of the Institute of East-Central Europe (Lublin) organized the study visit in Poland for Georgian civil servants: **Tornike Nozadze**, *Deputy Head of the European Integration Coordination Department, Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration*, **Emir Eteria**, *Head of Analytical Division at the European Integration Coordination Department, Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration*, **David Kalatozishvili**, *Chief Specialist at the EU Assistance Coordination Department, Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration*.

The study visit begun from the lecture made by Mr. Leszek Jesień, who talked about the Polish route to the European Union and explained what kind of methods can have a big impact on acceleration of the process of the association. Next meetings were held in Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Mr. Filip Jasiński presented the EU visa policy, discussions about it and showed the plans of changes in this sphere. Later Mr. Zbigniew Krużyński, Polish National Visegrad Coordinator spoke about IVF Civil Servants Mobility Program, outlining the main intentions of the entire project. After this short speech, Georgian participants had a great opportunity to talk with the representatives of Eastern Department, which offered them their help in improving networking strategies in Brussel. The first day of the visit was finished by the meeting with Mr. Konrad Niklewicz, spokesman of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, who talked about the Polish communication strategies with society to promoting the EU project.

The second day of the study visit begun from one-hour meeting with Ms. Agnieszka Skiba from the Polish Ministry of Interior - she presented the Polish migration policy. The next conversation was held again in Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Ms. Maria Celina Błaszczyk, Counsellor to the Minister, talked about her experiences of negotiating and implementing of AA in Poland. During the meeting both sides decided to exchange their ideas and procedures, which they created in different states of AA implementation process. After lunch, the Georgian delegation visited the European Council Representation in Poland, where Mr. Rafał Rudnicki showed the ways of promoting the EU values and standards in schools and universities. Later, in demosEUROPA office, Mr. Paweł Świeboda, from 2001 to 2006 the head of the Department of the European Union in Polish MFA, decided to share his impressions from Polish first steps on the route to EU. The agenda of second day of the visit was finished by meeting with Mr. Piotr Kaźmierkiewicz, who talked about global tendencies in migration and visa policy.

At the beginning of the third day, a discussion between Georgian civil servants with experts of the Centre for Eastern Studies was organised. In the form of Q&A session, Polish experts presented their view on Georgia-EU policy and tried to explain where is the field for misunderstanding, and which fields are best for the further cooperation between Tbilisi and Brussels. The discussion about global policy, geopolitics and relations in triangle EU-Russia-Georgia was continued during the working dinner in Kazimierz Dolny, where Mr. Krzysztof Strachota talked about Russian policy in Caucasus and Central Asia.

During the fourth day Georgian delegation had a great chance to see how EU funds have improved the infrastructure in Poland, create the new places of work and inspire the local administration to develop new projects. The meeting in Puławy City Municipality was the great opportunity to present how EU works in practice – Mr. Janusz Grobel, Mayor of the City, talked about the cooperation between local administration with EU institutions and presented various ways of using the EU funds. Couple hours later during the working dinner with Ms. Maria Przelomicz, respected Polish journalist specialised on Eastern Europe, the Georgian delegation had a possibility to reach various contacts to different Polish experts and politicians, which can be helpful for further cooperation.

The final day of the visit was focused on the sightseeing of Warsaw.

**Bratislava - Approximation of sanitary and phytosanitary legislation,
Institutional frameworks for approximation of the EU legislation,
Implementation of EU sanitary and phytosanitary legislation at national level**

All three civil servants participating in the CSMP-Georgia programme in Slovakia represented different institutions: **Zurab Zurashvili** is the *head of the EU Harmonisation Department at the National Food Agency, Ministry of Agriculture*, **Irakli Tsikoridze** works as the *main expert at the Department of Foreign Trade and International Economic Relations at the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development*, while **Tamara Bukhrashvili** is an *advisor at the Department of International Relations at the Revenue Service of Georgia*.

During the first day of their visit Georgian civil servants had an opportunity to meet representatives of the Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture and Plant Production's Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (Katarína Beňovská, Peter Vrabček, Marta Magdolenová and Katarína Hanzelyová). In the evening an informal dinner with Lenka Bučková (IVF), Milan Nič (CEPI) and Ján Cingel (SAC) was organised.

On the next day another meeting with Milan Pakši from Commercial Politics' Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic took place. Later on Georgian civil servants had an opportunity to meet the Georgian Ambassador and discuss the current state and prospects of Slovak-Georgian cooperation and economic relations. They also were informed about different possibilities to implement joint projects with Slovak partners and were asked to spread this information among their colleagues in Georgia.

During following two days of their visit Georgian civil servants had opportunity to meet Zuzana Bírošová from the Department of Food Safety and Nutrition at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, Bohuslav Lovas from Prohibitions and Limitations Division, Customs Department at the Financial Administration of the Slovak Republic, and Martin Illáš from the Department of Legislation at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic. Also, they visited one of Bratislava's city districts – Rača, which shares the name with one of the most famous wine regions in Georgia.

On the final day the participants met Róbert Hačko from the State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic for a seminar that have both theoretical and practical parts. They also managed to visit International Visegrad Fund, where they met the director Karla Wursterová, Jiří Sýkora and Denisa Pussová.

Budapest - Correction system, fight against corruption, personal data protection

Besides the main organizer - Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy - eight public institutions have been incorporated in the program: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Justice, National Protective Service, Hungarian Police Headquarter, Hungarian Prison Service Headquarter, Hungarian National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, and the Government Control Office. In addition, the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade assigned two of their own experts with the task of providing relevant lectures based on their professional knowledge, and they invited a speaker from the Prime Minister's Office as well.

During the first day of the official program, three Georgian civil servants - **Natia Jaliashvili**, *Chief of Section of Public Information Provision, Division of Public Information at the Administration Department at the Ministry of Internal Affairs*, **Kakha Khandolishvili**, *Deputy Head of the International Relations Department at the Ministry of Corrections* and **Sergo Turmanidze**, *Deputy Head of the Reforms Coordination Division, Lepl Reforms and Development Agency at the Ministry of Internal Affairs* visited the Ministry of Interior, where they were given a general introduction to the overall structure of anti-corruption measures endorsed by the Hungarian government by Ms. Nóra Baus, advisor at the Office of the Deputy State Secretary for EU and International Affairs. Following this presentation, Mr. Gergely Fliegau, former professor at the Department of Correction at the Police Academy, talked about the many difficulties of effective rehabilitation in general, and introduced the Hungarian solutions and developments in this area. The last consultation of the day was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where the Deputy State Secretary for Eastern Partnership welcomed the participants and they engaged in a short discussion about Georgian-Hungarian relations.

The second day of the program started off by a comprehensive introduction of the new criminal code of Hungary and its most important amendments by Ms. Csenge Tóth, desk officer at the Department of the Deputy State Secretary for Criminal Law Legislation in the Ministry of Justice. After that, the participants visited the seat of the National Protective

Service, which is now the department in charge of drafting a new anti-corruption strategy in Hungary. Mr. Péter Klotz, an anti-corruption expert, outlined the main experiences of former anti-corruption strategies and pointed at the direction of future developments. Subsequently, at the Hungarian Police Headquarter, Major Richárd Nagy from the Department of Anti-Corruption and Financial Crime gave a presentation about the investigative techniques and the role of prosecutors in the fight against corruption.

During the third day of the program, the participants attended presentations at the Hungarian Prison Service Headquarter, where three speakers provided authentic insights into three different aspects of the correction system. First, Mr. Róbert Bogotyán, head of the Department for Detention Affairs, talked about the humane treatment of prisoners. Following this, Mr. László Huszár introduced the unique system elaborated by his department – Department of Strategy, Planning and Evaluation – for the classification of convicts and preliminary risk evaluation. Finally, Mr. Ivacs Balázs, head of the Office of Internal Audit, merged the two topics of anti-corruption and correction with his presentation on financial control within the correction system. At the end of the day, the participants visited the Georgian Embassy in Hungary.

The last day of the program organized by CEID commenced with a comprehensive half-day long presentation on personal data protection at the Hungarian National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information. The president of the Authority, Mr. Attila Péterfalvi first introduced the duties and competences of this entity, the respective legal background and the effective tools in his competence for the protection of personal data. After that, Mr. Péter Kimpfián talked about the Schengen Information System, and the Hungarian experiences in this particular field of cooperation. Ms. Zsófia Szántó and Ms. Zsófia Majsa further detailed the mechanisms of the administrative procedure and the current projects regarding freedom of information. Eventually, Mr. László Hegedűs from the Government Control Office introduced the structure, legal status and responsibilities of the GCO while also summarizing the most interesting cases and procedures.

Feedback from the participants:

Generally, all twelve Georgian civil servants were very satisfied with the presented program, found it useful, informative and relevant. They also appreciated very much professional, linguistic and presentational skills of all V4 experts involved in the program.

On the other hand, it was quite difficult to receive an in-depth feedback from the participants in Slovakia since they were too formal in their answers. Also, one participant in Hungary complained that the schedule of the program was a little bit too tight, leaving insufficient time for non-professional activities.