



PROJECT BRIEF

Technical Assistance to Electoral Systems/Processes in Georgia

Duration: 11 months
Estimated Budget: USD 517,060

Background

New phase of elections approaches Georgia, i.e. parliamentary elections of autumn 2003 and presidential elections of spring 2005. The earlier practice showed that there is still a significant need for improvement with regard to the electoral systems in the country. Assessments by both international and domestic observer organizations were consistently critical of election processes. In connection with this, UNDP Georgia has decided to define the scope of its possible involvement in election-related activities with a purpose to support improvement of the electoral systems and processes in the country. At the request of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) the Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) of the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) has fielded a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) to assist with the expertise and provide recommendations for further actions. In close consultation with the NAM and various national or international actors UNDP Georgia has developed a Project Document to assist with improvements to the existing legal base with an accent on Unified Electoral Code (UEC), provision of technical assistance and training to the CEC as well as with the voter awareness/education campaign to overcome the general apathy among the Georgian electorate.

Objective

To provide necessary technical assistance to electoral systems and processes in Georgia to ensure - to the maximum extent possible - free, fair and transparent elections further strengthening the democratic institutions in the country.

Activities

- ☞ Facilitate the **coordination** of activities at a higher level to enhance an effective cooperation between the Ambassadorial Working Group and other national actors.
- ☞ Assess the **legal base** for elections with particular accent on Unified Electoral Code (UEC) and provide the recommendations for improvement after the parliamentary elections for further perfection of the relevant legislation while at this stage mainly focusing on the implementation of the UEC.
- ☞ Provide legal expertise to the CEC strengthening its institutional capacity to deal with elections in the long term.
- ☞ Render a **technical assistance** including necessary equipment and supplies in order to develop sound election management systems and strengthen the capacity and credibility of the CEC.
- ☞ Provide an advise to electoral authorities in relation to the overall planning, budgeting and organization of the electoral process including the preparation and monitoring of a detailed electoral calendar on the basis of active involvement from election management bodies.
- ☞ Provide **training** to an electoral staff at all levels increasing their ability to discharge responsibilities in a correct, efficient, and professional manner. The activity will be based on an analysis of the current and previous training activities undertaken by the electoral authorities.
- ☞ Increase public understanding of the electoral process and public confidence in the organization and administration of the elections through **voter awareness/education campaign**. The activity will be based on current and previous public information activities undertaken by the electoral administration.
- ☞ Assist in developing positive relationships with the media and in disseminating a wide range of information regarding the electoral process.

Expected results

- ☞ Coordinated and effective assistance provided by the international community to the electoral systems in Georgia.
- ☞ Actual implementation of the UEC in strict adherence to the current legislative framework.
- ☞ Basis created for future improvements to electoral legislation of the country.
- ☞ More credible electoral institutions/officials with enhanced capacity to deal with the elections independently.
- ☞ The general apathy of the Georgian electorate overcome through enhanced voter awareness / education campaign