



CZECH REPUBLIC
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Initial Project Proposal

Request number:
(Allocated by the Czech
Development Agency)

Title:
Enhancing Capacity of Georgian Customs Canine Service

Partner country:
Georgia

Region/town/locality:
Tbilisi

Expected Start Date of Implementation: **March 2016**

Expected End Date: **December 2017**

Estimated total financial allocation (EUR): (CZK)

Expected Czech ODA financial
contribution (EUR): (CZK)
250 000 EUR

Applicant / Partner Institution:

Name, type, mail and web address of partner institution; name and position of responsible manager, phone, fax, e-mail.

LEPL Georgia Revenue Service, info@rs.ge, 16 Gorgasali str, 0114 Tbilisi, Georgia
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Other key partners:

Name, type, mail and web address of partner institution(s); name and position of responsible manager, phone, fax, e-mail.

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CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

Development problem:

Problem analysis. Please explain current situation, identify major problems and their real causes (problem tree), stating the baseline for the intervention. Please include cross-cutting issues in the problem analysis (identify the major problems from the gender perspective, with regards to environment etc.)

Georgia is a transit and destination country for illicit drugs produced in other countries. The most significant route runs from Afghanistan and Iran through Azerbaijan and Georgia, to destinations in Western Europe, Turkey, and Russia. International-bound trucks and cars sometimes carry narcotics on this route, transiting Georgia before traveling to Turkey or Russia, or moving to Ukraine, Moldova, or Bulgaria on Black Sea ferries. The Russian-occupied territories of South Ossetia and Abkhazia remain beyond the control of Georgian law enforcement.

Georgia also has a domestic drug problem. Domestically-manufactured amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) known as "Jeff" and "Vint" and a locally-produced

desomorphine opioid known as "krokodil" are gaining in popularity. Among other drugs, heroin, buprenorphine, methadone, and marijuana are available on the domestic market. In 2013, drug seizures by Georgian law enforcement increased dramatically from previous years, demonstrating the high priority that the Georgian government places on narcotics interdiction.

The Government of Georgia has signed counternarcotics agreements with the United States, with the Black Sea basin countries, the GUAM organization (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova), Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and several European countries.

In 2013, strengthened border security measures and a more proactive approach to investigations and inspection led to a dramatic increase in drug seizures. In July, Georgian customs seized 116 kilograms of heroin from a truck that had crossed the border from Armenia. During 2014 customs authorities on Georgian borders have revealed 646 cases of illegal trafficking of narcotic and psychotropic substances including 2.7 tons of liquid heroin -the largest drug seizure in Georgia since independence from the Soviet Union. This tendency continued in 2015 identifying new roots and methods of drug trafficking by physical persons via air or land borders.

Establishment of Customs Canine Service in 2014 was especially important in a view of growing drug trafficking threats and new roots crossing Caucasus region. The need of highly professional assistance for the new institution with very ambitious function of fighting against illegal movement of narcotic and psychotropic substances is a priority. From the very beginning of the project Georgia Revenue Service has addressed WCO on its efforts and requested support in this process.

In February 2014 Georgian customs officials have visited Czech customs administration and WCO Regional Dog Training Center in Hermanice. In the first quarter of 2016 the visit of two Georgian canine instructors with sniffer dogs is envisaged.

Currently customs canine service has 20 drug searching dogs with one central canine training center and one small regional office serving the western part of the country. Cannel infrastructure is available in 8 out of 19 customs crossing points (CCP) K9 service operates only in 4 CCPs. Existing arrangements and are far beyond to cover all ports of entry and expend drug trafficking control at the border.

Key stakeholders and beneficiaries:

Analysis of key stakeholders and beneficiaries. Please define stakeholders who have significant influence or importance for the solution of the problem given above. Also, specify groups (e.g. women, men, girls, boys of different age, education, economic status and other categories) who shall directly benefit from the intervention, and those who will benefit indirectly. Please provide gender disaggregated data on both the stakeholders and the beneficiaries, if relevant.

State border control in Georgia are ensured by two institutions: Border Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) is responsible for patrolling "green border", Patrol Police of MIA is in charge of passport control of physical persons, while passport control of truck drivers and control of all goods and luggage at the border is responsibility of Customs department of Georgia Revenue Service (GRS). Serving as first line control at the border GRS has strategic role and paramount responsibility in ensuring the safety and security of Georgian citizens. In a view of its transit function interest of countries of final

destination are increasingly important.

To increase capacity for fighting the drug trafficking and drug related crime GRS actively cooperates with MIA Patrol Police and Central Criminal Police Departments. In 2014 with the assistance of US INL program and in cooperation with Drug Enforcement Agency joint Rapid Reaction Task Force task force has been created comprising of MIA and Revenue Service staff. The aim of Task Force is detection of drugs using drug detector dogs. Group operates in Tbilisi International Airport. Another example of effective inter-agency cooperation is UNODC-WCO supported Container Control program. Operating in Poti sea port and Tbilisi Customs Clearance Zone it ensures the risk identification and targeting of export, import and transit shipments of all transport means via territory of Georgia.

Drug abuse and related crimes in different way and level, directly and indirectly influence the society, particular people their families and environment. Domestic drug abuse remains a problem for Georgia. Experts estimate that the intravenous drug using population in Georgia is approximately 45,000 (out of a total population of 3.7 million).

Expected outcomes:

Analysis of objectives. Please describe the vision of an improved situation (including change of behaviour and attitudes), including key measurable and qualitative outcome indicators (disaggregated by sex if relevant), and their current value.

With relatively young statehood, Georgia is actively developing its state security via introducing well adapted control mechanisms. Georgia's geopolitical location made the county one of most popular transit and destination country for illicit drugs produced in other countries. It is one of the traces of Heroine Route. During 2014 customs authorities on Georgian borders have revealed 646 cases of illegal trafficking of narcotic and psychotropic substances including 2.7 tons of liquid heroin -the largest drug seizure in Georgia since independence, this tendency continued in 2015. State authorities are actively working to increase security of national borders via introducing new control tools.

Objective of the project is to enhance customs control to all CCPs via increasing number of sniffer dogs. Availability of 20 additional service dogs will ensure that customs control at all ports of entry is increased and supported with most effective tool in fighting drug trafficking at the border. Additionally, construction of 12 cannels at the training center and one cannal at CCP Sadakhlo (border with Armenia) will complement the development of infrastructure.

The project will significantly support in increasing capacity of canine service via doubling the number of service dogs and provision of trainings for dog handlers. Strengthened border control will directly influence on behavior of drug traffickers and reduce illegal drug trading through customs check points.

Thus the main outcome of the project will be: (a) doubled capacity of customs canine center; (b) improved customs control at Georgian land, sea and air CCPs (c) improved customs control at Customs Clearance Zones –CCZ, where goods are cleared and released (d) increased number of drug seizures at customs control zones (e) change of behavior and attitudes of drug traffickers (f) reduced number of drug trafficking (g) overall improvement of criminal and health condition of Georgian society in terms of drug

related crime and drug abuse.

Expected outputs and/or required specific services, supplies or works:

Please describe the concrete outputs when required, including baseline and target indicators, and technical specifications if relevant.

Currently owning 20 drug searching dogs is only half of total need for ensuring the K9 coverage of all land, air and sea ports CCP. Traffickers are always looking for new alternative roots especially choosing the less controlled CCPs. An obvious example is confiscation of 15 kg cocaine in total only in August 2015 in Tbilisi International Airport from physical persons. Later the cases have been significantly reduced, indicating that alternative roots have been selected by traffickers. Additional 20 service dogs will be delivered to main customs check points and will serve on permanent bases.

Main indicators of project success will be number and volume of drug seizures identified by K9 team at customs control zones. Ensuring that all CCPs are provided with sniffer dogs will significantly increase identification of violation cases.

The main outputs of the project : (a) all main CCPs are provided with K9 team (b) 13 cannels are constructed for sniffer dogs (c) 20 customs officers trained in dog-handling techniques.

The measurable outputs of project will be (a) number of inspections carried out at customs control zones by K9 team; (b) number of drug seizures by K9 team (c) number of criminal cases proceeded by MIA based on K9 team reveal (d) number of intelligence reports issued by dog handlers and canine center management.

Possible strategies:

Analysis of strategies. Please compare different options to address the given situation, and then chose the most relevant and feasible strategy according to clear criteria (incl. national development plans, time and economic limits, civil society and women/gender groups strategies etc.).

From the very beginning of the project GRS is working in two directions. Building of infrastructure, purchasing of sniffer dogs and first basic training of canine staff was financed by Georgian Government. It also supports participation of customs officials in international drug trafficking associated events. In 2016 two instructors will visit WCO Regional Dog Training Center of Czech Customs administration. On the other hand capacity building of the new established unit was supported by WCO and German experts. US government initiated and supported establishment of inter-agency Rapid Reaction Task force operating in Tbilisi International Airport. US Export Control and Border Security program (EXBS) has assisted GRS with providing stationary X-ray for small vehicles and other special equipment (metal detector, portable radio transmitters etc.)

Georgian customs administration actively cooperates with Czech customs acknowledging its huge and valuable experience in training of service dogs and dog handlers. WCO Regional Dog Training Center in Hermanice every year hosts trainings for

customs staff from over the world.

Provision of sniffer dogs and dog handlers trainings has very specific and limited options, while Czech customs has all resources and capability to support Georgian canine service. Contributing to capacity building of customs, in the first quarter of 2016 the visit of two Georgian canine instructors with sniffer dogs is envisaged.

Role of the applicant/partner organization and roles of other key partners:

Please describe briefly the roles and responsibilities of key project stakeholders during project preparation, implementation and also their guaranties for ensuring sustainability of the benefits of the requested development intervention.

In the beginning of 2016 MoU on cooperation will be signed between Czech General Directorate of Customs and GRS serving as bases for active cooperation between two agencies.

In support to the project proposal it is worth to mention that Czech customs administration is supporting the initiate to provide sniffer dogs to Georgian customs administration. Georgia Revenue Service will contribute via provision of training infrastructure and cannels and technical support during the project preparation and its implementation including trainings of newly recruited dog handlers and provision of transport means for K9 teams.

Besides the constantly based K9 teams at the borders, it is envisaged to have several mobile groups which will operate in five Customs Clearance Zones and two international airports of Kutaisi and Batumi .

The main guarantee for ensuring sustainability of the project is the state approach underlying the strategic importance of ensuring state border control and increased security in terms of drug trafficking into and through Georgia.

Complementarity:

Analysis of other relevant development interventions executed by the government (or) in co-operation with other donors, complementarity of the requested intervention with activities carried out so far.

In terms of countering illegal drug use and importing narcotics, Georgia implemented extensive legislative amendments to existing drug-related laws and enacted a new law on psychotropic substances which came into force in May 2014. Georgia significantly expanded the list of pharmaceuticals for which a person needs a prescription in 2014, in an effort to better control the illegal use of pharmaceuticals.

Within a one and half year of its operation to ensure capacity development Gregorian government has supported the infrastructure development, purchasing of 18 sniffer dogs and dog handler trainings. Customs K9 center has hosted experts from Southern Coast K9 –US private company and experts from German customs. It actively cooperates with WCO, was involved in USA INL/DEA joint project. Georgian customs officials attend international events dedicated to fighting against trafficking in different dog training centers. Cooperation continues with Azerbaijan, Czech, German, Moldavian customs administrations.

Majority of projects cover institutional development of the canine center, instructor and

dog handler trainings, while the further supply of sniffer dogs and development of infrastructure still remains a concern.

Date and Signature:
Place, date, name of authorised person within applicant institution and his/her signature, stamp.

Tbilisi
13.01.2016
Samson URIDIA

