

Project:

Replenishment of the Expenses of the Government of Georgia for the Parliamentary Elections of March 28, 2004

Implementing Partner: Government of Georgia

Project Purpose/Objective(s):

Approaching Parliamentary elections will be a major test for the new Georgian government's ability to embrace and uphold the principles of democratic elections and of free and fair contest between the political parties. The aim of this project is to provide financial support to the Georgian government in its efforts to effectively prepare for and administer the elections.

Background:

The Mission implemented similar project aimed at supporting the Government of Georgia in implementing the Presidential elections of January 4, 2004. The project proved to be a success as it provided much needed assistance in organizing and managing elections.

After the considerable improvement of the quality of electoral process, The Central Election Committee of Georgia has devised plans to further enhance its capabilities for which it would require additional support. Regardless of the generous international support provided by various donor organizations and states, there remain some activities that are to be performed by the Georgian government. For this purpose, it has devised new plans supposed to enhance election administration process and related institutions. For this purpose, the Georgian government approached the Mission to provide financial assistance in support of this process.

Approach:

The Mission will donate up to EUR: 1.000.000 for the enhancement of the election administration process.

• Results (Outputs):

The programme will provide necessary means for effective functioning of the election administration; further enhance technical capacities of district election and precinct election commissions and promote fair and free parliamentary elections to restore/sustain voters' trust in the democratic election process.

• Quality factors

The new government as well as new election administration are committed to ensure the highest level of transparency and effectiveness before, during, and after the elections and thereby demonstrate that they are truly committed to democratic principles they profess. Therefore, all branches of the government are expected to be very cooperative and supportive in the period of implementing this project.

• Assumptions and risks

There is a risk that some disturbances will occur during the election process. Thus, the Mission and the Georgian Ministry of Finance will carefully coordinate their activities with the Georgian CEC and entire leadership to mitigate such problems.

- **Implementation arrangements**

The mission will provide up to EUR 1.000.000 to the Georgian State Budget in order to finance the Georgia Election Support Programme. The first instalment will equal EUR 800.000 with the second instalment subject to further review based on the Government's actual expenditures.

The implementation process will be managed by the Georgian CEC and support provided by the MoF. The Mission will receive a set of documents, specified in the Agreement, proving the actual receipt of funds by CEC and DEC's.