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MINUTES OF THE E-LPAC

“Study and Research on Election Media Coverage for the 2017 Local Government Elections in Georgia”

Date: 31 January 2017

UNDP Georgia is starting a new project – **“Study and Research on Election Media Coverage for the 2017 Local Government Elections in Georgia”**, which aims to contribute to a peaceful, free and credible media environment during the 2017 local government elections in the country.

The overall objective of the proposed Action is to contribute to a peaceful, free and credible media environment during the 2017 local government elections in Georgia. The specific objectives of the Action are: a) To improve media reporting standards through monitoring activities of Georgian media during the elections, b) to enhance capacities of CSOs in implementing oversight of media performance and electoral developments, and a) to make Georgian voters benefit from balanced and unbiased media coverage of electoral developments that will allow them to make informed decisions during the elections.

The objectives of the Action will be achieved through implementing evidence-based assessment of media performance via comprehensive and qualified media monitoring (MM), raising regional journalists' awareness on professional reporting, and enhancing public discussions on media coverage of electoral developments. The MM will be organized prior, during and immediately after the upcoming elections. The MM should promote a non-biased and balanced coverage as the media sources will be widely informed about the intended monitoring. As media cares about its image and reputation and has an ambition, at least stated, of providing the public with accurate and non-biased information, it will be concerned about the quality of the assessment of their performance in the eyes of public. The public demand for the professional coverage should positively influence the supply side.

The project will be implemented under Direct Implementation Modality as it deals with independent media and involvement of government would be counter-productive. UNDP Georgia CO has full capacity to implement the project as it has an in-depth knowledge and experience of working in the local context and has an established network of local counterparts. The CO has high operational capacity for identification, recruitment and administration of project personnel, procurement of goods and services, substantial financial delivery, reporting and logistical support. Besides, sound control and monitoring procedures and capacities are in place within the CO and the project staff.

Project Details

- Duration: 12 months, January-December 2017
- Total Budget: Euro 286,663
- Donor: European Union Delegation (96.51 %) and UNDP (TRAC Resources 3.49 %)
- Implementation Modality: DIM
- Partner CSOs of the project :
 - ✓ Georgian Charter of Journalistic Ethics (GCJE) - TV news and talk shows monitoring
 - ✓ Civic Development Institute (CDI) – internet and print monitoring
 - ✓ Internews – radio monitoring

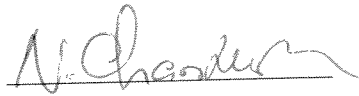
The fundamental media monitoring capacities of these CSOs have already been built within the previous rounds of similar joint undertakings by EU and UNDP.

The project document and the budget were electronically shared by UNDP Programme Associate to programme staff for their review and possible comments. The email notification was sent out at the email address prmt.geo@undp.org on *Friday, 20th of January, 2017*. Deadline for submitting the comments and questions was *Thursday, 26th of January, 2017*. During the given time none of the colleagues have raised any questions or concerns. Thus, the project document is considered to be approved.

Notes prepared by:

Nunuka Chanturia

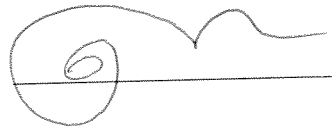
Programme Associate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Chanturia', written over a horizontal line.

Approved by:

Natia Natsvlshvili

Assistant Resident Representative

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