

EU DEL GE contribution (12/07/2016) to Follow-up of recommendations and lessons learned from The Strategic evaluation of the EU cooperation with Georgia (2007-2013) – Country level evaluation

No. Cluster	No. Recommendations, Final report	Responses, DG NEAR: accepted or not	Follow up: actions to be undertaken by whom, by when
1 Global strategy			
	<p>Recommendation 1 - Continue to focus financial assistance on the reforms initiated (Justice, PFM, Public administration, IDPs, etc.) but address persisting challenges by holding GoG to account for sector-wide reform results.</p> <p>Recommendation 1.1: More attention should be paid to identifying shared goals and areas where the EU can add value in the context of Association.</p> <p>Recommendation 1.2 - When pursuing the approximation agenda, better communicate the broad benefits of Europe, especially outside Tbilisi.</p>	Accepted	<p>In the Association Agreement (AA) context, the Association Agenda 2014-2016 (new one under preparation) sets out the commonly agreed and shared - by the Georgian and the EU side - goals and areas where the EU can add most value. Political and policy dialogue is also strongly embedded in the AA mechanisms, including Association Council and Committee as well as sectoral Sub-Committees. They are complemented by high-level NEAR/EEAS missions to the country, e.g. participation at the annual ‘Georgia’s European Way’ Conference in Batumi.</p> <p>Through the SSF 2014 – 2017, initiated reforms are continuously supported. For instance, justice reform and Public Administration Reform (PAR) are two focal sectors building upon the aspects of previous assistance of criminal justice and PFM while adding other sub-priorities, such as civil law and anti-corruption policies. Assistance in these sectors supports the implementation of the Association Agreement (AA). Sector specific support is accompanied by institution building measures, TA and Civil Society Facility. Support to IDPs is mainstreamed into relevant programmes such as those addressing human rights or migration issues.</p> <p>By the EU Delegation outreach and networking events are held in and outside Tbilisi (e.g. EU Film festivals, EU Journalism Prize), fostering visibility of EU assistance and communicating the benefits of EU association. In addition, strengthened media relations and social media activities serve the promotion of EU-Georgia association as well as cooperation.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 2: The EU should stress the social advantages of approximation – human rights, better consumer and environmental protection, more transparent and accountable government, etc. – more than the strictly economic ones.</p>	Accepted	<p>Specific efforts have been made to strengthen the communication on benefits of the EU approximation and EU assistance. The East StratCom Task Force was created within the EEAS in March 2015 in order to carry out strategic communication in our Eastern partner countries addressing Russia’s disinformation campaigns. In addition,</p>

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	<p>Recommendation 2.1: Benefits of Europe, should be communicated better outside the capital; increase the role of Civil Society where possible</p>		<p>the programme “OPEN Neighbourhood: Communicating for a stronger Europe” (2015-2019) is providing further support to both bilateral and regional communication actions.</p> <p>The Delegation has diversified communication channels also towards reaching out to regional broadcasting media outlets, including through a “Let’s Meet Europe” project, which organises public events all over the country, and a grant to the Strategic Communication Department of the Office of the State Minister for Euro-Atlantic Relations for a campaign on EU-Georgia relations. Specific target group communication is embedded in all programmes, such as the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD). The communication unit of ENPARD communicates the benefits of the programme to the citizens across the regions of Georgia.</p> <p>In line with the EU-Georgia Roadmap for the engagement with CSOs adopted in 2014, consultations with CSOs on thematic topics are held on a regular basis. The ongoing Civil Society Facility launched in 2016 as well as the design of new programmes is helping to strengthen the role of CSOs in monitoring the AA and at the same time being active partner in communicating the advantages of the approximation process.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 3 - Better embed the co-operation programme in the broader framework of multiple EU-Georgia dialogues and processes.</p> <p>Recommendation 3.1: increase their effectiveness, by forming closer links with the political section, other EU entities (for example, EUMM, EUSR) and non-DG NEAR/DGs in Brussels.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The activities of the political section activities are closely coordinated with operational activities and vice versa. Continuously working under this set-up, the EU Delegation (EUD) participates in the preparation of Association Council, Committees and Sub-committees. EUMM and EUSR are closely involved in cooperation measures with a bearing for the breakaway regions (e.g. COBERM activities). Non-DG NEAR/DGs contribute in various ways to the cooperation, notably through the review of the programming documents but also through</p>

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			the review of twinning fiches, TAIEX projects and the like.
2 Strategy implementation			
	<p>Recommendation 4 - Increase coordination between EU stakeholders while better recognising the role of development assistance in the wider EU co-operation strategy.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.1: adopt a "Whole EU" strategy with the EUD at its centre and in communication with GoG</p> <p>Recommendation 4.2 while continuing to support the PAO, work with higher-level national coordination entity for co-operation within context of Joint Programming</p>	Accepted	<p>The Joint Programming of EU assistance (with EU Member States and Switzerland), coordinated by the EUD, will be the basis for a joint EU message to be shared with the GoG. This exercise is ongoing including through preparation of jointly elaborated Sector Fiches. The EUD is in regular contact with the Policy planning and donor coordination unit of the Government as well as with PAO in the context of joint programming as well as in coordinating visibility and communication measures for a more holistic EU message. Coupled with these measures, work on a Joint Monitoring & Evaluation scheme continues with the support of SIGMA.</p> <p>Communications activities of the EUMM, EUSR, EIB and Erasmus+ offices are coordinated towards delivering a consolidated line of message. Further to these overall coordination measures, the EUD works closely with EU Member States embassies in Georgia, as well as with GoG, specifically with the Office of the State Minister of Euro-Atlantic Integration and in particular with its Strategic Communications Department and the EU-NATO Information Centre.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 5: Continue using budget support as the main modality, in combination with other specific measures.</p> <p>Recommendation 5.1 Stress appropriate combination with TA, capacity building and policy dialogue.</p> <p>Recommendation 5.2 Ensure that the interlocutor for budget support is responsible for the entire scope of the reform supported.</p> <p>Recommendation 5.3 specific measures involving Civil Society (oversight/complementary measures) should be applied.</p>	Accepted	<p>Recommendation 5.1: All new budget support programmes include also other complementary measures. E.g. the PAR programme under AAP 2015 where out of the total budget 30M€, 20M€ are allocated for budget support, with other 10 M€ for complementary support through grants to CSOs, twinning and TA.</p> <p>The Delegation has appointed one sole horizontal point of reference for budget support as a quality support element towards the sectorial managers for budget support operations.</p> <p>As mentioned under the follow-up to recommendation 2.1, the Delegation is working on the basis of an EU Roadmap for the engagement with Civil Society adopted in 2014 and also implementing a Civil Society Facility launched in 2016.</p>

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	<p>Recommendation 6: Take advantage of political dialogue to further enhance results perspectives of development co-operation.</p> <p>Recommendation 6.1 More closely align co-operation and political dialogue</p>	Accepted	<p>The political dialogue and operational activities are closely coordinated within the EUD. The Head of Delegation also plays a very active and positive role in this regard, with the support of the operational section and political section of the Delegation, ensuring cooperation programmes and political dialogues feed and strengthen each other.</p> <p>For instance, under the Justice programme launched in 2015 the topics resulting from the policy dialogue are effectively transposed into the reports and briefings for the political dialogue (high level political meetings, JFS/JHA Subcommittee, HR Dialogue, interventions at project events etc.). When it comes to conflicts, a clear coordination between the EUD and the EUSR is in place: while the EUSR is more focused on political dialogue with the GoG and de facto authorities, the EUD is more in charge of operationalizing possibilities for engagement.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 7: Develop and implement a “Whole EU” approach to Conflict Resolution and Confidence Building – covering all relevant actors, and in a broad dialogue with GoG and the de facto authorities on possibilities for action.</p> <p>Recommendation 7.1 Maintain a diversity of implementing partners (Abkhazia and where possible in South Ossetia)</p> <p>Recommendation 7.2 Look again at what resources could be mobilised</p> <p>Recommendation 7.3 Continue to explore how to support with limited financial resources rapid disbursements that can bolster political initiatives of EUSR and possibly EUMM</p> <p>Recommendation 7.4 Test more forcefully with all stakeholders the limits of engagement in relation to people centred development</p>	Accepted	<p>The EU Delegation has a close coordination with other relevant EU actors such as EUSR and EUMM, in a broad dialogue with GoG and the de facto authorities, as detailed under 6.1. It also maintains as and where possible a diversity of implementing partners while bearing in mind that there are clear restraints for implementation owing to the situation of the breakaway regions.</p> <p>In terms of diversification of funding, other sources of funding for activities in the breakaway regions beyond IfS/IcSP include ENI, In particular, ENI funded ENPARD II programme signed in 2016 as well as the Civil Society Facility launched in 2016 have specific components in the breakaway regions.</p> <p>Recommendation 7.3: Specific financing mechanisms have been created to support rapid disbursement, in the form of EUMM's confidence building facility and COBERM in its phase II.</p> <p>Recommendation 7.4: The EUD is starting to engage in Abkhazia in</p>

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			community-based participatory development through the ENPARD II programme . Similarly, the Civil Society Facility will offer possibilities for societal development also in breakaway regions and conflict affected areas.
3 Sector specific aspects			
	<p>Recommendation 8: Continue to provide support to the rule of law reforms broadly defined, by deepening engagement with those institutions that demonstrate credible will to reform and putting more emphasis on issues of transparency, accountability, and (where applicable) independence.</p> <p>Recommendation 8.1 Put more emphasis on issues of transparency, accountability and impartiality of individual judges</p> <p>Recommendation 8.2 Broaden support to the rule of law and focus not only on Criminal Justice, but also on civil and administrative justice.</p>	Accepted	<p>Recommendation 8.1: There are targeted TA projects signed in 2015/16 developed under the ongoing Justice programme launched in 2015, designed to increase the transparency, accountability and independence of the judiciary notably on the level of individual judges. The rule of law reforms are also part of the political dialogue.</p> <p>Recommendation 8.2: Relevant civil and administrative law issues are being addressed through an EU-funded project with GIZ under the above mentioned Justice programme.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 9: Adopt a strategic approach to enhance the capacity of justice sector beneficiaries to influence criminal justice policy making and implementation.</p> <p>Recommendation 9.1 Improve legal awareness of justice sector beneficiaries</p> <p>Recommendation 9.2 Consider supporting the review of some legislation</p> <p>Recommendation 9.3 Ensure countrywide mobilization of Civil Society actors with regard to monitoring</p>	Accepted	<p>Recommendation 9.1: A specific technical assistance project will be launched in autumn 2016 to further support the criminal justice policy making and implementation in a close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>Recommendation 9.2: The EU supports working groups on the revision of Criminal Code, Criminal Procedural Code and other related legislation. In addition, in the area of civil law the EU promotes the review of the civil code, company law and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) legislation. This is regularly discussed in the Steering Committee of the Justice programme.</p> <p>Recommendation 9.3: Through the Civil Society Facility launched in 2016, grants are to be allocated to NGO's in early 2017 to promote their advocacy and monitoring role in justice sector policies.</p>

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	<p>Recommendation 10: Further strengthen support to the implementation of the PFM reforms by more systematic capacity development efforts.</p> <p>Recommendation 10.1 Support the GoG in developing a comprehensive PFM capacity development strategy</p> <p>Recommendation 10.2 The strategy should cover the whole PFM sector and address / integrate the existing government commitments and obligation in PFM</p>	Accepted	<p>Recommendations 10.1. and 10.2: Within the ongoing Public Finance Policy Reform (PFPR) programme launched in 2015, the GoG PFM reform strategies are enhanced through an ongoing TA project. With the aim to support a comprehensive PFM development strategy the EU is promoting the creation of accountability platforms between government financial oversight bodies and non-state actors. The underlying concept for the PFPR programme is to address comprehensively issues pertaining to the entire PFM sector notably on the basis of the last PEFA assessment in 2013, In this framework, the current Twinning and TA projects assist the government to meet the PEFA findings and commitments in PFM related areas coupled with a fostered policy dialogue involving the Parliament of Georgia and the State Audit Office.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 11 Continue to support a long-term two track strategic vision in which Agriculture is commercialised via cooperative development while being integrated into a broad vision of rural socio-economic development.</p> <p>Recommendation 11.1 Ensure that cooperative development is viewed in the long term and that expectation in the short are realistic and measured</p> <p>Recommendation 11.2 Link co-operative development to value chain processors and end market, monitor and enhance capacity of co-operatives</p> <p>Recommendation 11.3 Ensure that cooperatives are viewed as viable partners for the agro-processing sector and become part of their supply chain</p>	Accepted	<p>Recommendations 11.1 – 11.3: There is a continued follow-up given through the ongoing ENPARD I and ENPARD II. In particular, current projects support cooperative development and related value chains in the country: 1. ENPARD -"Strengthening farmers cooperatives in rural municipalities of Georgia"; 2. "Towards a New Direction: Supporting Agricultural Co-operation in Georgia"; 3. "Enhancing Small Farmers' Cooperation and Productivity in Imereti and Racha Regions"; 4.-Capacity Building to the Agriculture Cooperatives Development Agency (ACDA), etc. The ENPARD II and ENPARD III (latter planned to be adopted in 2016) are supporting a broad vision of rural socio-economic development, complementing support provided to the cooperatives.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 12 Regional Development strategies and action plans need to be reviewed and updated, and there is an urgent need for capacity building at regional level. Particularly in view of capacity constraints, the appropriateness of basing the strategy on administrative regions should</p>	Accepted	<p>Recommendation 12.1: The relevant strategies and action plans are adopted, with a mid-term evaluation of the strategy scheduled for 2016. Based on the evaluation results, policy and capacity gaps could be addressed through possible future EU assistance. Any such assistance will be prepared in consultation with all relevant</p>

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	<p>be studied and discussed in policy dialogue.</p> <p>Recommendation 12.1 – Ensure consideration of all stakeholders, while revising and updating strategies</p> <p>Recommendation 12.2 – Basing the strategy on administrative regions should be re-examined</p>		<p>stakeholders.</p> <p>Recommendation 12.2: The related policy planning will be one of the components under ENPARD II and will be fully rolled out under ENPARD III, thereby helping municipalities to develop policies to address current needs.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 13 Continue to support national CSOs but emphasise the broadening of CSO support to grass-roots organisations in line with the Civil Society Roadmap 2014-2017, especially to deal with the challenge in minority-populated regions.</p> <p>Recommendation 13.1 Seek ways to innovatively funding small CSO actions</p> <p>Recommendation 13.2 Prioritize minority regions and monitoring/accountability/transparency</p> <p>Recommendation 13.3 Explore means of integrating grass-roots NGOs into larger bilateral projects and having complementarity measures to Budget Support</p>	Accepted	<p>Recommendation 13.1: Provision is made to allow for funding small CSO action as applicants under EIDHR through sub-granting. This will be done as part of the call 2016.</p> <p>Recommendation 13. 2: Promoting the rights of minorities is a cross-cutting issue in all relevant upcoming programmes. Also, the guidelines for action grants and operating grants are drafted in line with the Civil Society Road Map 2014-2017, thus prioritising assistance to CSOs in the regions, including those inhabited by ethnic minorities. This is notably the case for the Civil Society Facility launched in 2016.</p> <p>Recommendation 13.3: Within the Civil Society Facility, sub-granting to smaller NGOs is required under the lot envisaging an action grant, while under the lot providing operating grants potential beneficiaries are expected to pass their knowledge and experience to smaller NGOs in the regions. Also, the Delegation is consulting CSOs in the capital and regions regularly on various topics, and the outcomes of these consultations are fed into the policy dialogue and development of concrete measures under related programmes. Such consultations are also embedded in the governance structure of large budget support operations.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 14: While continued dedicated support to IDPs may be needed, the EU should integrate support to IDPs into its broader co-operation programme in areas such as agriculture, civil society, economic</p>	Accepted	<p>Recommendations 14.1. – 14.3: Direct and targeted support to IDPs as such is being phased out, while support to IDPs is mainstreamed in other programmes by addressing IDPs through schemes providing support to e.g. 'vulnerable/marginalized/deprived groups'.</p>

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	<p>development, and rule of law.</p> <p>Recommendation 14.1 Develop a comprehensive transition strategy for EU work with IDPs</p> <p>Recommendation 14.2 Encourage full transparency and effective monitoring of EU's support to IDPs both through the government and directly</p> <p>Recommendation 14.3 Any large scale BS to deal with future IDP crisis should be accompanied by a robust political dialogue and a dispassionate reflection on successes and failures of past initiatives funded in this manner</p>		<p>Transparency and monitoring of EU support to IDPs is ensured through the ongoing IDP IV programme, notably its governance structure and inherent monitoring schemes. At the end of the programme, lessons learnt from EU support to IDPs will be examined and possibly an evaluation carried out.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 15: Develop a more broadly joined-up policy in Conflict Resolution and Confidence Building, with a deeper appreciation of the long-term contribution of development co-operation.</p> <p>Recommendation 15.1 Develop a clearer and collectively shared strategic logic informed by a joint analysis across EU entities (including engaging Member States)</p> <p>Recommendation 15.2 Enter into a dialogue with all stakeholders about how people centred development components can be developed and implemented in Abkhazia</p> <p>Recommendation 15.3 Continue to search for all creative ways to stay to engage in South Ossetia</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Recommendation 15.1: A close coordination exists between the relevant EU bodies and relevant EU Member States (and USAID) on strategic approaches and concrete actions in the field of conflict resolution. It is also part of the joint analysis carried out within the joint programming exercise.</p> <p>Recommendation 15.2: The EUD and EUSR office, together with the main relevant organizations present in Abkhazia, have proactively sought possibilities for meaningful people-centred development in the area of rural development and civil society development.</p> <p>Recommendation 15.3: The search for engagement options in South Ossetia is taken up on a permanent basis as a matter of priority. An example of such engagement is the extension of support from the Civil Society Facility to CSOs in South Ossetia in 2016, to the extent possible.</p>