



This action is funded by the European Union

**ANNEX 4**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of Georgia

**Action Document for Technical Cooperation Facility**

**INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS**

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS**

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following sections concerning calls for proposals:

- 5.3.1. Grants: up to 4 calls for proposals for Twinning projects (direct management)

and in the following sections concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals:

- 5.3.2. Grant: direct award to Public Service Development Agency (PSDA) on "Support to sustained effective functioning of the State Commission on Migration Issues" (direct management)

- 5.3.3. Grant: direct award for participation of Georgia in the EU Programme "Creative Europe" (direct management)

- 5.3.4. Grant: direct award for participation of Georgia in the EU Programme "Horizon 2020" (direct management)

- 5.3.5. Grant: direct award to UN Women for "Combatting Domestic Violence" (direct management)

<b>1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number</b>	Technical Cooperation Facility CRIS number: ENI/2015/037-862 financed under European Neighbourhood Instrument
--	---

<b>2. Zone benefiting from the action/location</b>	Georgia The action shall be carried out at the following location: country wide			
<b>3. Programming document</b>	Single Support Framework for EU support to Georgia 2014-2017			
<b>4. Sector of concentration/thematic area</b>	Complementary support for capacity development and institution building			
<b>5. Amounts concerned</b>	Total estimated cost: EUR 16.161 million Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 14 million This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 2.161 million			
<b>6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)</b>	Project Modality Direct management: - grants – call for proposals - grants – direct award - procurement of services			
<b>7. DAC code(s)</b>	15110, Public Sector Policy and Administrative Management			
<b>8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Biological diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships</b>			

## SUMMARY

The programme will support Georgia in fulfilling obligations stemming from the agreements between Georgia and the EU. It will support public institutions in implementing the Association Agreement (AA) as well as the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP) and the EU-Georgia agreement on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation (Readmission Agreement).

The specific objectives are:

- To enhance the capacity of Georgian public institutions in selected priority areas to comply with commitments set out in the AA, VLAP and Readmission Agreement;
- To support participation of Georgian beneficiary institutions in selected EU programmes.

This action is partly funded through the 'more for more' mechanism of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (multi-country umbrella programme).

## 1 CONTEXT

### 1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

#### *1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework*

The EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA) signed on 27 June 2014 and provisionally applied since September 2014, sets out the foundation for political association and economic integration between Georgia and the EU. The Association Agenda, agreed between EU and Georgia, was prepared to facilitate the implementation of the AA and it provides a list of priorities for joint work in the period 2014-2016. The Government of Georgia and the line ministries have developed action plans for implementing the Association Agenda.

The programme of the government of Georgia "*For a Strong, Democratic and United Georgia*" and the National Social-Economic Strategy (*Georgia 2020*) serve as the main strategic documents; they provide the overall priority-setting and development framework of the country.

The Single Support Framework (SSF) for EU support to Georgia 2014-2017 includes support to the capacity development and institution building for implementation of the priority commitments under the EU-Georgia agreements. It complements assistance channelled through the three focal areas.

Under the AA, Georgia has taken important commitments in terms of reform and approximation with the EU in a wide range of areas. Connectivity of the country is a key part of the AA in relation with a number of specific requirements: a) in the energy area, in line with the AA, Georgia started the negotiations for full membership in the Energy Community Treaty in February 2014. In this respect Georgia has to ensure that energy markets are operated to reach competitive, secure and environmentally sustainable conditions; b) in the

transport area, Georgia has to promote efficient, safe and secure transport operations as well as inter-modality and interoperability of transport systems; c) in electronic communications area, approximation with a number of EU Directives and standards is a part of the AA.

Environment and climate change is yet another area where Georgia has to comply with particularly important requirements deriving from the AA. In particular, the AA chapters dedicated to the environment foresee the gradual harmonisation of legislation including approximation in environmental governance, air quality, water protection and management, waste management, nature protection, industrial pollution and hazards and chemicals management towards the EU ‘*acquis*’. Also, the AA chapters dedicated to climate change include specific provisions for enhancing bilateral climate cooperation and foresee the gradual harmonisation of legislation including approximation in ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases towards the EU ‘*acquis*’.

In the framework of the EU-Georgia visa liberalisation dialogue, the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP) from February 2013 is a fundamental element underpinning substantial enhancement of mobility and people-to-people contacts. The third report of the Commission devoted to the implementation of the VLAP was published on 8 May 2015. The report confirms good overall progress but highlights areas where further efforts are needed: migration management, money laundering and terrorism financing, law enforcement cooperation, citizen's rights including protection of minorities, asylum, trafficking in human beings, preventing and fighting corruption, drugs trafficking.

The VLAP underlines the importance of reforms in migration governance and fight against organised crime in Georgia. Migration management is being reformed based on the Migration Strategy of Georgia and its Action Plan, whereas the National Strategy and Action Plan on Combating Organised Crime addresses some of the problem areas for VLAP implementation mentioned above.

Human rights and anti-discrimination are covered by the national Human Rights Strategy with its Action Plan, including particularly domestic violence – an issue covered by the VLAP and with a need for further progress. In view of the relatively recent attention in Georgia to the phenomenon of domestic violence as a violation of basic human rights and a matter of public concern, the body of relevant law is not yet sufficiently known or understood and its translation into action is trailing behind.

### ***1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis***

The direct beneficiaries of the programme are the following public institutions related to AA implementation: ***In the connectivity area:*** Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (GNERC), the electricity transmission system operator Georgian State Electrosystem (GSE), as well as the Georgian National Communication Commission (GNCC); ***In the environmental area,*** the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection and its respective agencies, as well as the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC& PH) of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA) to address environmental health issues.

The following public institutions are involved in the VLAP implementation: ***In the migration area:*** Public Service Development Agency (PSDA) of the Ministry of Justice and the State Commission of Migration; ***In the domain of organised crime:*** the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the secretariat for fight against organised crime serving the Interagency Coordinating Council for Combating Organised Crime; ***In the field of domestic violence,*** Ministry of Internal Affairs, as the main body working on detection and investigation of crime of domestic violence, as well as its prevention and ensuring the support to victims alongside the Anti-domestic Violence Council established for policy coordination at the Office of the Prime Minister in 2014.

These institutions will be directly involved in the implementation of activities financed within this programme. Civil society organisations will be associated to the implementation and monitoring of the programme with a view to promoting reform, transparency and public accountability. Ultimately Georgian citizens can be considered as final beneficiaries of the programme.

### ***1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis***

With signature of the AA and Readmission Agreement, as well as implementation of VLAP, the public institutions of Georgia took responsibility for implementing a number of reforms and harmonisation with EU '*acquis*' in all priority areas of the agreements. Those reforms and legislative harmonisation require continued advancement in institution building and capacity development of the Georgian public institutions started via previous EU funded actions. With this programme it is planned to support the Georgian beneficiaries in the areas which are outside of three focal sectors of the SSF, but are complementary to them and represent the priority areas in the following chapters of the respective agreements: under the AA, energy, transport and electronic communications, environment and climate action; under the VLAP and Readmission Agreement: migration, fight against organised crime, and domestic violence.

These areas have been prioritised for support by the Government of Georgia and the EU. The following selection criteria have been applied for selection of the specific support actions: (a) importance for the EU-Georgia cooperation agenda and political dialogue; (b) relevance to the Georgian strategies/action plans for implementation of the agreements; (c) level of approximation of national legislation with the EU '*acquis*'/implementation of the EU best practices; (d) maturity and sustainability of the presented proposals.

Over the next years, the process of approximation will require Georgia to strengthen the policy-making and strategic planning capacities of its public institutions, including relevant policy guidance, effective leadership and coordination. Georgia faces a number of issues in selected areas such as improving legislation, increasing awareness of stakeholders, improving monitoring and strengthening the knowledge for adequate policy-making.

Under the European Neighbourhood Policy, the EU is promoting participation of its partner countries in the EU programmes, which is expected to also strengthen capacities of the beneficiary institutions to implement the AA in areas covered. In February 2015 the Government of Georgia signed an Agreement for participation in "Creative Europe" Programme and completed negotiations in June 2015 over the Agreement on "Horizon 2020" Programme. The current programme envisages support for Georgia to participate in both programmes.

## 2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk level (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
External political tensions, social or economic instability in Georgia, or a further downturn in the global economy divert the Government's focus and resources away from its reform agenda	L	Continued policy dialogue with the Georgian authorities; Supporting implementation of the EU-Georgia Agreements
Human rights are not guaranteed for all groups (religious, ethnic, sexual minorities, vulnerable women and children) of society	M	Support the Government in the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy
High turnover of staff in public institutions and associated loss of institutional memory	L	Continuous policy dialogue with the government; EU support to public administration reform
Weakening of the Government's commitment to reforms related to EU-Georgia agreements	L	Continued political and policy dialogue with the authorities; Information campaigns to the institutions and the general public.
<b>Assumptions</b>		
<p>The Government of Georgia (a) remains committed to fundamental values of democracy, rule of law and human rights; (b) continues actions for political and economic integration with the EU; (c) pursues public administration reform in line with the best international and EU practices.</p> <p>Sufficient Institutional capacity / maintenance of key leadership and technical staff as well as strong planning, implementation and coordination capacity in beneficiary institutions.</p>		

## 3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

### 3.1 Lessons learnt

The programme is designed based on the lessons learnt from the implementation of the Comprehensive Institution Building (CIB) programme.

The flexibility and customised approach for all modalities applied (grants, including direct grants to Georgian public institutions, services, supplies) under the CIB in Georgia proved to be successful factors in supporting reforms in the country. The advantage of flexibility is also

reflected in the draft country evaluation report on EU support to Georgia in 2007-2013 which states that: "*flexibility allowed support for a variety of areas beyond the major reforms supported in the focal sectors of co-operation[...].*"

Another lesson learnt from the CIB implementation was the need for an inclusive approach: whereas most support was focused on a limited number of institutions, which were holders of the Institutional Reform Plans and central in preparing ground for implementation of the AA, the practice showed that it was essential to cooperate also with other public institutions that had significant role in complying with the commitments under the agreements.

### **3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination**

The programme is complementary to existing and foreseen EU assistance under the three focal sectors of the SSF. Whereas EU assistance in the focal sectors also helps Georgia to address its commitments under the EU-Georgia agreements, this programme allows to target certain institutions outside these sectors but still of key importance for the implementation of the agreements. In particular, the programme will be complementary to the budget support operations under the Annual Action Programme (AAP) 2015 in support of Public Administration Reform as well as Agriculture and Rural Development. It also complements previously launched operations supporting migration and border management, regional development and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), as well as investment projects in the areas of energy, transport and environment funded from the Neighbourhood Investment Facility and EU regional programmes in the same areas. The Human Rights for All programme funded from AAP 2014 as well as the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) complement this programme by supporting the civil society organisations dealing with domestic violence. Finally, the programme builds upon the achievements of the CIB in terms of capacity building of the beneficiary institutions and legal approximation to the EU '*acquis*'.

Actions planned under this programme are complementary to activities currently being implemented or planned by other donors (*inter alia*, the World Bank, UN Agencies, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, USAID, Sweden, Netherlands) active in the fields of support foreseen by this programme.

The Government's arrangements for donor coordination are currently being revised. The coordination of EU assistance is with the Office of the State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration (OSMEEAI), which will be the main coordinator for this programme. It is expected that OSMEEAI will ensure proper coordination of the programme with the Administration of Government (AoG), which assumes overall responsibility for the coordination of external assistance, and also with the Ministry of Finance, which has specific responsibility for the oversight of EU-funded budget support programmes.

In addition, the EU Delegation ensures co-ordination with the EU Member States, through regular meetings organised for the Development Counsellors, as well as other donors, inviting also Georgian authorities to the meetings. The EU Delegation also coordinates as well as chairs sectorial donor co-ordination groups in a variety of sectors.

### 3.3 Cross-cutting issues

All activities under this programme will be designed and implemented in accordance with principles of good governance and human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability and the inclusion of socially or economically deprived groups wherever these issues are of particular relevance to the institutions to be assisted. Gender equality is strongly embedded in support to combating domestic violence. In this area, the programme activities include awareness raising campaigns as well as support to mainstreaming gender issues into national planning and budgeting processes. Particular attention will be given to mainstreaming environmental aspects into other areas (such as Energy and Transport) and to compliance with EU environmental standards.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 4.1 Objectives/results

The **overall objective** of the programme is to support Georgia in the implementation of contractual relations between Georgia and the EU and in meeting the objectives set out in the EU-Georgia Agreements.

The **specific objectives** are:

- To enhance the capacity of Georgian public institutions in selected priority areas to comply with commitments set out in the AA, the VLAP and Readmission Agreement;
- To support participation of Georgian beneficiary institutions in selected EU Programmes.

The following main results are expected:

**Result 1:** Strengthened institutional and administrative capacities of the Georgian public institutions in selected priority areas to implement provisions of the EU-Georgia agreements.

**Result 2:** Effective participation of Georgian public institutions in selected EU programmes

### 4.2. Main activities

The main activities corresponding to Result 1 are as follows:

#### Priority Areas for AA

**Connectivity:** a) **Energy:** technical assistance will be provided in regulation of the gas and electricity market in accordance with the Third EU Energy Package. This will ensure that respective public institutions can regulate and monitor the transit of energy and electricity through Georgia and that the relevant EU ‘acquis’ is transposed and implemented; b) **Transport:** technical assistance will be provided to assist the Georgian public agencies in making a gap analysis and a roadmap to the approximation of the EU ‘acquis’ as described in the AA; c) **Electronic communications:** technical assistance will be provided in (i)



reviewing of electronic communications regulatory framework according to EU Directives and provision of recommendations; (ii) development of a comprehensive regulatory approach and road map; (iii) capacity building of related management staff of the existing electronic communication body.

**Environment and climate change:** technical assistance will be provided in (i) improving institutional capacities for staff in concerned units, departments and related entities under the environment and climate change area for the development of realistic and coherent action plans in compliance with the calendar for approximation in their respective fields; (ii) gradual adoption of relevant legislation for concerned areas, in compliance with the specific calendar and the requirements of respective EU Directives and Regulations; (iii) implementation of specific provisions emanating from approximated legislation for concerned areas, as indicated in the respective action plans (iv) complementing EU regional programmes such as Green Growth and Clima East, for the gradual approximation in the areas of air quality, waste management, nature protection and climate action; (v) reviewing of Georgian legislation in environmental health field in accordance with the provisions of the AA; (vi) development and introduction of an effective and internationally accepted environmental health system in compliance with EU requirements; (vii) capacity building of the existing environmental health staff.

#### Priority Areas for VLAP and Readmission Agreement

**Migration:** technical assistance will be provided to strengthen (i) coordination mechanisms and enhancing analytical capacities of the State Commission on Migration Issues; (ii) monitoring and effective implementation of the Migration Strategy and Action Plan.

**Fight against organised crime:** technical assistance will be provided to (i) strengthening institutional capacity of respective public institutions; (ii) enhancing cooperation in existing international law enforcement fora and via direct contacts and channels of communication with EU Member States and third countries; (iii) public awareness campaigns on fight against organised crime.

**Combat domestic violence:** technical assistance will be provided to (i) tailor made awareness raising, preventive and corrective actions; (ii) enhancing policy coordination, implementation and integration at the national and regional/local levels to ensure improved protection and rehabilitation of victims/survivors of violence; (iii) capacity building of key policy and service delivery institutions in selected target locations.

The main activities corresponding to Result 2 are as follows:

Participation of Georgia in EU Programme for the cultural and creative sectors "Creative Europe".

Participation of Georgia in EU framework programme for research and innovation "Horizon 2020".

#### **4.3 Intervention logic**

The action is aimed at creating the necessary conditions for effective implementation of the EU-Georgia AA, VLAP and the Readmission Agreement, particularly through targeted policy advice and technical assistance in legal approximation process in the selected priority areas, and provision of capacity development and institution building to relevant state authorities.

## **5 IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5.1 Financing agreement**

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

### **5.2 Indicative implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

### **5.3 Implementation modalities**

#### **5.3.1. Grants: up to 4 calls for proposals for Twinning Projects (direct management)**

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The Twinning modality via calls for proposals will be used for actions supporting following priority areas: energy; e-communications; as well as environment and climate change, in line with the objectives, results and activities described in sections 4.1 and 4.2.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In line with Article 4(10)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, participation in Twinning calls for proposals is limited to public administrations of the EU member States, being understood as central or regional authorities of a Member State as well as their bodies and administrative structures and private law bodies entrusted with a public service mission under their control provided they act for the account and under the responsibility of that Member State.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criterion is the operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are the technical expertise of the applicant, and the relevance, methodology and sustainability of the proposed action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The rate of co-financing for Twinning grant contracts is 100%<sup>1</sup>.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the calls

First trimester of 2016.

(f) *Use of lump sums/flat rates/unit costs*

Twining contracts include a system of unit costs and flat rate financing, defined in the Twinning Manual, for the reimbursement of the public sector expertise provided by the selected Member States administrations. The use of this system of unit costs and flat rate financing, which exceeds the amount of EUR 60 000 per beneficiary of a Twinning contract, is subject to the adoption of a separate, horizontal Commission decision.

### **5.3.2. Grant: direct award to Public Service Development Agency (PSDA) on "Support to effective functioning of the State Commission on Migration Issues" (direct management)**

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objectives of the grant are to contribute to the effective functioning of the State Commission on Migration acting as a coordination hub in the field of migration management and the VLAP, and to further develop its analytical capacities. Expected results and fields of intervention will be in line with results and activities described in sections 4.1 and 4.2.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

In accordance with Article 190(1) (f) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because this action has specific characteristics requiring a specific type of beneficiary for its technical competence, specialisation or administrative power. The secretariat of the State Migration Commission at the PSDA, a Legal Entity of Public Law established under the legislation of Georgia, has unique specialised and exclusive technical competence in the field of migration governance and coordination - (based on Governmental Decree), unifying and managing 12 ministries of the Government.

The State Migration Commission was set up as the sole and unique specialised coordination and steering body on 13 October 2010 on the basis of the Government's Decree No 314 to ensure effective coordination of the migration-related developments in Georgia and coordinate the competences of various bodies. The State Commission's analytical and administrative support is provided through the Secretariat created within the PSDA. Therefore, PSDA, among other functions, supports activities of the State Commission on Migration Issues as well as execution of tasks defined in the Migration Strategy.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

---

<sup>1</sup> As provided for in the Twinning Manual

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of this programme, design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 80%.

In accordance with Article 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

Second trimester of 2016.

**5.3.3. Grant: direct award for participation of Georgia in the EU Programme "Creative Europe" (direct management)**

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective is to co-finance the participation of Georgia in the EU Programme "Creative Europe" for three years. This will be achieved by means of reimbursement of a share of the annual participation fee required from Georgia for being part of this programme.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. The recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because, in accordance with Article 190(1)(f) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the action has specific characteristics requiring a specific type of beneficiary for its technical competence, specialisation or administrative power. Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia has been designated by Georgia for being in charge of this programme and is responsible for topics relevant to the concerned EU programme.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the concerned institution. The essential award criterion is the relevance of the proposed action to the objectives, results and activities as described in sections 4.1 and 4.2 above. These criteria will be verified by ensuring that the institution is the one in charge of the payment of the participation fee and that the payment of the entire fee for the corresponding year has been done.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 50%.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement:

Second trimester of 2016.

(f) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs

An agreement between the EU and Georgia on the participation of Georgia in "Creative Europe" was signed on 24 February 2015, according to the terms of which Georgia is associated to the programme as of 1 January 2015 and its financial contribution is due as of that date. It is therefore appropriate to allow retroactive co-financing of this participation and the Commission authorises that the cost of the financial contribution of Georgia for its participation in "Creative Europe" may be recognised as eligible as of 1 January 2015.

The Government of Georgia confirmed its willingness to benefit from this financial support in November 2014.

**5.3.4. Grant: direct award for participation of Georgia in the EU Programme "Horizon 2020" (direct management)**

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective is to co-finance the participation of Georgia in the EU Programme "Horizon 2020" for 2 years. This will be achieved by means of reimbursement of a share of the annual participation fee required from Georgia for being part of this programme.

The grant is subject to signature of an agreement on the participation of Georgia in "Horizon 2020". The Government of Georgia confirmed its willingness to benefit from this financial support in June 2015.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. The recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because, in accordance with Article 190(1)(f) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the action has specific characteristics requiring a specific type of beneficiary for its technical competence, specialisation or administrative power. Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia has been designated by Georgia for being in charge of Georgia's participation in EU programme "*Horizon 2020*" and is responsible for topics relevant to the concerned EU programme.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the concerned institution. The essential award criterion is the relevance of the proposed action to the objectives, results and activities as described in sections 4.1 and 4.2 above. These criteria will be verified by ensuring that the institution is the one in charge of the payment of the participation fee and that the payment of the entire fee for the corresponding year has been done.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 50%.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

Second trimester of 2016.

### **5.3.5. Grant: direct award to UN Women for "Combating Domestic Violence"**

a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objectives of the grant are to contribute to the prevention and elimination of domestic violence via addressing its root causes and consequences, strengthening services and national / local implementation and coordination mechanisms. Expected results and fields of intervention will be in line with results and activities described in sections 4.1 and 4.2.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

In accordance with Article 190(1) (f) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because this action has specific characteristics requiring a specific type of beneficiary for its technical competence, specialisation or administrative power. UN Women owns the unique and specialised technical competence in the field of gender equality policies and practices.

UN Women is the UN specialised entity mandated to work on the enhancement of gender equality and empowerment of women on global as well as national levels. The global normative mandate makes it possible for the entity to advocate with the governments on their international commitments, while the entity's development mandate allows it to provide demand-driven technical support to state and non-state actors to enhance delivery on these commitments. Preventing and combatting violence against women and girls is one of the priority areas of UN Women's work.

UN Women Country Office in Georgia is strategically positioned to implement initiatives aimed at preventing and combatting violence against women and girls (EVAWG): it is the only agency that has been consistently working on combatting violence against women and girls and especially domestic violence in Georgia for over five years. UN Women Country Office in Georgia also leads coordination work on gender equality initiatives in the country.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of this programme; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this assessed grant is 80%.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

Second trimester 2016.

### 5.3.6. Procurement (direct management)

Subject	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Support to Energy	Services	1	2 <sup>nd</sup> trimester 2016
Support to Transport	Services	1	2 <sup>nd</sup> trimester 2016
Support to Environment & climate change	Services	1	2 <sup>nd</sup> trimester 2016
Support to Fight against Organised Crime	Services	1	1 <sup>st</sup> trimester 2016
Visibility and Communication	Services	1	3 <sup>rd</sup> trimester 2016
Evaluation and Audit	Services	2	3 <sup>rd</sup> trimester 2016 & 3 <sup>rd</sup> trimester 2018

## 5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

## 5.5 Indicative budget

	<b>EU contribution (in EUR million)</b>	<b>Indicative third party contribution (in EUR million)</b>
5.3.1 Twinning calls for proposals (direct management)	3.8	
5.3.2 Direct grant to Public Service Development Agency (direct management)	1.5	0.375
5.3.3 Direct grant: Participation in EU Programme <i>Creative Europe</i> (direct management)	0.111	0.111
5.3.4 Direct grant: Participation in EU Programme <i>Horizon 2020</i> (direct management)	1.3	1.3
5.3.5 Direct grant to UN Women for Combat Domestic Violence	1.5	0.375
5.3.6 Procurement (direct management)	5.2	
5.7 – Evaluation, 5.8 - Audit	0.189	
5.9 – Communication and visibility	0.4	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2.161</b>

## 5.6 Performance monitoring and reporting

The Commission and the partner country regularly review progress made in the implementation of the programme through a Steering Committee (SC) which meets twice a year. Apart from steering the overall process, the SC also aggregates information about progress in implementation which will be made available to relevant stakeholders.

At the level of the individual actions funded under the programme, specific SCs will be convened by the beneficiary institutions involving the EU Delegation and other relevant stakeholders. These SCs will meet regularly to review progress on the basis of periodic reports.

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its



results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

## **5.7 Evaluation**

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

A mid-term evaluation will be carried out for learning purposes. A final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 1 month in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the programme.

## **5.8 Audit**

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

## **5.9 Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

## APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

	<b>Intervention logic</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baselines</b> (incl. reference year)	<b>Targets</b> (incl. reference year)	<b>Sources and means</b> <b>of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Overall objective: Impact</b>	The overall objective of the programme is to support Georgia in the implementation of contractual relations between Georgia and the EU and in meeting the objectives set out in the EU-Georgia Agreements	To be completed at a later stage for each individual action financed under this Technical Cooperation Facility.				
<b>Specific objective: Outcome</b>	1. To enhance the capacity of Georgian public institutions in selected priority areas to comply with commitments set out in the AA, the VLAP and Readmission Agreement;  2. To support participation of Georgian beneficiary institutions in selected EU Programmes.	To be completed at a later stage for each individual action financed under this Technical Cooperation Facility.				
<b>Outputs</b>	1. Strengthened institutional and administrative capacities of the Georgian public institutions in selected priority areas to implement provisions of the EU	To be completed at a later stage for each individual action financed under this Technical Cooperation Facility.				

	Georgia agreements 2. Effective participation of Georgian public institutions in selected EU programmes		
--	--	--	--