



**Regional Development Agency
SENEC – PEZINOK**

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Successful completion of the twinning project in Georgia opens new horizons for sustainable cooperation

On 27 January 2017, the European Union together with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of National Economy of Hungary, State Secretariat for Vocational Training and Labour Market, the Labour Office of the Czech Republic have completed the Twinning¹ project for the capacity building for the Employment Support Services (ESS) in Georgia as part of the Social Service Agency (ESS) under the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs. The overall management was ensured by the Slovak Twinning Platform – Regional Development Agency Senec-Pezinok, Slovakia.



The project results and achievements were presented publicly at the conference held, at the National Training Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia in Tbilisi.

The objective of this indeed strategic twinning project was to provide complex institutional and capacity building to empower the SSA/ESS and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and other relevant staff to effectively fulfil its mission and duties and deliver well-targeted, high-quality, gender-sensitive and cost-effective services to job seekers and towards employers. During 18 months an Institutional Reform Plan was elaborated and a New Service Model for the SSA Department for Employment Programmes was established.

The New Service Model had been piloted in Tbilisi between June and November 2016. The pilot offices dealt with 1852 job-seekers had been using modern EU techniques. 1405 new job posts had been reported to the pilot offices and SSA has 157 new employers as the outcome of the pilot. 49 job-seekers had been placed during the six month as a result of the employment mediation, apart from those who were encouraged to search for a job independently. More than 140 SSA staff members have been receiving number of internal training and coaching sessions to be able to deal with implementation of the New Service Model. The new programme for job-seeking skills development / group counselling was also developed and tested out. After the close of the Twinning these outcomes are ready for further developments and could serve as solid basis for codification and institutional rearrangements.

¹ Twinning is the European Union initiative that brings together public sector expertise from EU Member States and beneficiary countries with the aim of enhancing co-operative activities. Twinning projects must yield concrete operational results for the beneficiary country under the terms of the Association Agreement between that country and the EU.



Mr. Zaza Sopromadze, the Deputy Minister, the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs, the Director of the Social Service Agency opened the conference together with Mr. Branislav Ondrus, the State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of Slovakia. The representatives from the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, the three EU member states, as well as diplomatic corps were present at the event. The Slovak Ambassador H.E. Mr. Rudolf Michalka and representatives of the Hungarian and Czech Embassies addressed the participants outlining the preparedness of the three member states to support Georgia. The European Union Delegation to Georgia and Project Administration Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration also took an active part at the conference.



The project paved a solid route for delivery efficient employment services to SSA/ESS key clients – job-seekers and employers based on EU standards and practices.

During 18 months of working together we have established strong partnership but also friendship that is going to be the catalyst for upcoming cooperation opportunities in the social area between all involved partners – Georgian, Slovak, Hungarian and Czech. Already in February-March 2017 a team of Slovak colleagues will visit SSA and meet our colleagues to discuss issues and challenges in the social area and outline the path for common bilateral projects. Our Agency is ready to provide Georgian colleagues the necessary support tailored to their real needs.

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