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REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

1. General situation in the country

The data received from the Georgian authorities, through Romania's diplomatic mission in Georgia, only covers the period between 01.03.2015 and 30.06.2015, with the exception of a couple of elements, specifically mentioned.

Seizures

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia permanently develops tools and techniques of fighting against Drug crimes. Also, renewed working for the identification of routes and tools of International Drug Transit through Georgia has been undergone.

¹ Poland is monitoring the illicit drug problem in Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine

On 25th of March 2015, the standing commission, established on the basis of the relevant decree issued by the Minister of Internal Affairs, liquidated drugs seized from illegal circulation as a result of investigative activities held across the country. Among other drugs, law enforcers destroyed 116 kg heroin seized from the truck by the Central Criminal Police Department in 2013 in Akhaltsikhe, at Ninotsminda customs as well as 360 pills of “subutex”, 4,57g methadone, 322 g heroin, 19,5 kg of marijuana and 15 kg of cannabis. The mentioned drugs were destroyed in special oven by means of new technologies.

In May, officers of the Central Criminal Police Department, as a result of operational investigative measures, seized 681, 29 g of heroin in especially large quantities.

In June, officers of the Central Criminal Police Department and the Patrol Police Department, as a result of jointly taken operational investigative measures, seized 478 pills of so called “Ecstasy”, 3,5879 g. Amphetamine and 0,0097 g. Methamphetamine.

Amount of revealed crimes by territorial bodies of the MIA during **01.01.2015 – 30.06.2015:**

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| - Article 260: (Illegal Turnover of Drugs) | - 501 crimes |
| - Article 261: (Illegal Turnover of Psychotropic Substances) | - 12 crimes |
| - Article 262: (Drug Transit) | - 54 crimes |
| - Article 263 (Contraband of Psychotropic Substances) | - 1 crimes |
| - Article 265 (Seeding and Cultivation of Drugs) | - 43 crimes |

Amount of seized drugs by MIA for 01.03.2015 – 03.06.2015

Heroin	1 kg 027,0181 g
Buprenorphine	4,4487 g
Amphetamine	7,0804 g
Methamphetamine	2,7465 g
Dezomorphine	0,2181 g
Marijuana	4 kg 843,589 g
Cocaine	0,1274 g
Opium	21,8742 g
Codeine	29,8574 g
Methadone	32,7994 g
Ecstasy (MDMA)	93,4557 g
Morphine	0,6706 g
Pregabailne	6 kg 120 g
Tramadol	827,05 g
Cannabis	31 kg 174,4 g
Phentalin	0,0126 g
Poppy	2 kg 038,9 g
Poppy Straw	54,02 g
Extract of Poppy Straw	20,354 g
Diphenoxylate	38 pills
Cannabis Resin	125,696 g
Lysergic Acid	0,01412 g

Increasing Awareness on Abuse of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Among the Society

Since March 2014, the MIA launched a wide-scale anti-drug campaign “No to Bio-Drugs – Let`s Change the Attitude Together”, in order to increase awareness concerning the abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances and to promote healthy lifestyle among the population. Within the framework of the campaign, the Minister of Internal Affairs and other representatives of the Ministry, together with physician-narcologists, organized a number of meetings with the students of higher educational institutions and pupils of public schools.

Various events involving pupils and students have been held within the framework of the campaign. A broad media-campaign has been carried out, within the framework of which numerous reports, TV and radio programs have been devoted to drug-related topics. Furthermore, the issue was widely covered by the press and social networks.

The campaign covered all segments of the society, especially the young generation.

2. Short update on the country's anti-drugs strategy

2.1 Changes/additions to the counternarcotics (CN) institutional framework

Development of Canine Service for the Purposes of Detecting Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors

The canine project (K9), financed by the US State Department, aims at developing capacity of the canine service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Finance and conducting fight against drugs. Within the framework of the project, Task Force has been created at the Tbilisi International Airport staffed with the representatives of the MIA and MoF; In March, 2015 training for new dog handlers was organized in Tbilisi by the trained Georgian instructors and supervised by the representatives of US Park Police.

On April 4, 2015, a graduation ceremony of the K-9 training program was held at Tbilisi International Airport. The training was held in two stages: first stage included training visit in the United States involving 5 employees of the Patrol Police of MIA which lasted from January 17 till March 15. Second stage of the training was implemented in Georgia by the US-trained instructors at various border crossing points involving three police employees.

The ceremony was attended by the representatives of Patrol Police Department, International Relations Department and US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). Trained police officers were awarded with relevant certificates.

On May 22, 2015, the Expert-forensic Main Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs hosted officials from the Law Enforcement Bodies of the state of Georgia (USA) and representatives of Tbilisi Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The officials of the Law Enforcement Bodies of the state of Georgia and Expert-forensic Main Division had an information tour around K-9 department, which had previously undergone reconstruction works. The guests familiarized with specifics of the scent expertise and criminalists' works. The delegation members also attended the training of K-9 dogs which included simulations for detection of various narcotics. They also were introduced to the results achieved by K9 project headed by INL.

Integrated Database on Collecting Information concerning the Individuals Participating in Illicit Traffic of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors

In July-September 2014, with the help of software registering laboratory tests and research results of the Drug Testing Service of Forensic Main Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, information registered in the database has been monitored, existing inaccuracies therein have been corrected, registered data on unidentified persons have been harmonized with the data protected at the Service Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice.

Currently, there are differently generated databases and systems for registering individuals participating in illicit traffic of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

In terms of criminal law, the old data on drug-related crimes are gathered in the database of the Information-Analytical Department, which in an automatic regime integrates the ongoing data of electronic criminal investigation of the Ministry of Justice. The works related to improvement of the database as well as of the registration software are conducted simultaneously.

In terms of administrative offences, the facts of detecting drug abuse are registered by the Patrol Police Department of the MIA. The Operative-Technical Department of the MIA conducts the works for improvement of the administrative offences' registration software.

The existence of two systems for registration of administrative offences and differently generated databases cause problems in regard to searching and processing information, and require the unification of existing applications as well as integration of databases. At this point the information existing in differently generated databases is processed, analyzed at the MIA, doubled data are detected and old data are structured, in order to integrate them in a unified registration system.

Levan Samkharauli National Forensics Bureau and the Ministry of Internal Affairs exchange the information on drug-related crimes in an online regime.

Creation of Drug Policy Website

A drug policy webpage has been created on the official website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with the objective of introducing main directions and news in the field of drug policy within the competence of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, to all interested persons. The webpage contains all necessary information, what ensure transparency of the activities of the MIA.

Especially, the establishment of joint bases on narcotic drugs and new psychoactive substances should be highly emphasized. Representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as the representatives of the Customs Service have an online access to the bases through the mentioned webpage, in order to ensure prompt and effective exchange of relevant information between these two agencies.

A new graph – Information on Drugs has been added to the drug policy web page. The representatives of the NGO sector were included in the information production process. This initiative aims to provide the society with information on negative consequences of drug consumption; inform the population about the roles of parents, teachers, other social factors as well as treatment issues; raise awareness of the society on the ill-consumption of substances available in Georgia.

Qualification Advancement Courses on the Issues of Combating Illicit Trafficking for Officers of Relevant Divisions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

In order to increase the capacity in drug supply reduction, the Ministry of Internal Affairs provides regular trainings for police officers on the following topics: “Classification of narcotic drugs (natural, semi synthetic and synthetic)”; “The prevalence of drug use in Georgia”; “ The list of Narcotics drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors; “Signs of Narcotic Intoxication”; “Forms of illicit drug use”; “Commonly Encountered methods of drug concealment”. From the April 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015, 144 detective-investigators, 282 community inspectors, 141 patrol-inspectors, 25 patrol police officers and 54 border guard police inspectors passed the named courses.

On 14-17, July, in Almaty, a workshop within the EU project “Heroin Route II” on drug-related issues was organized.

2.2 Legislative changes, including money laundering and chemical precursors

The National drug strategy, as well as the action plan, were adopted by the Inter-Agency Coordinating Council on Combating Drug Abuse on the meeting of the council on 4, December 2013. Basically, this strategy and action plan have human rights approach and the policy is grounded on human rights and scientific evidence based findings. The basic directions of the strategy are as follows: *reducing drug demand and supply; reducing harm caused by drug abuse; overcoming stigma and discrimination; monitoring, coordination and international cooperation on the drug problem*. The strategy and action plan are carried out by the Inter-Agency Council on Combating Drug Abuse, chaired by the Minister of Justice of Georgia.

Most significant change which was conducted by the council is connected with the legislative amendment in article 260 of Criminal Code of Georgia. As a prompt follow-up to the expert’s recommendation the Government of Georgia elaborated the draft amendments to the criminal code aiming to distinguish criminal liability for drug possession and distribution. The Parliament adopted the draft and amendments entered into force as of 31 July 2015.

The amendments provide that: illegal manufacturing, production, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or sale of narcotic drugs, their analogues, precursors or new psychotropic substances will not be punished as strictly as before, however the distribution will be still strictly punishable. The previous version of article 260 provided a criminal liability of up to 11 years of imprisonment for both drug possession (and other enlisted actions, such as production, storage, etc.) and distribution. In accordance with the new law, the maximum sanction will be decreased to 6 years of imprisonment for the possession. Likewise, in case of an aggravated circumstances the drug possession will be punishable by imprisonment from 5 to 8 years instead of the previous range of 7-14 years.

Also, Government of Georgia (GoG) elaborated draft for unified prevention strategy to systemize and streamline coordination of preventive activities of state agencies, as well as for its partner organizations. The draft strategy will be circulated among the council members for further discussions shortly.

Rehabilitation and secondary prevention are in the center of government's efforts as well. In this context, the project on Social Enterprises, implemented with the support of Swiss government and in close cooperation with International Organization for Migration (IOM), is worth noting. The newly established social enterprises will provide job opportunities for more than 100 former drug users in Georgia.

Government also put many efforts in bringing data collection and analysis, as well as research activities, in line with international standards, as it continues the fruitful cooperation with EMCDDA to be marked by signing a Memorandum of Understanding by the end of this year.

GoG also considers introducing judicial control over unplanned drugs tests performed by the police. According to “the law on police of Georgia” Article 17 paragraph 2 (d) if there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person has consumed drugs, the policeman is authorized to bring the person before an authorized body for examination. Under the article 2 (d) the “reasonable ground to believe” is a fact and/or information that would be sufficient for an impartial observer to draw conclusions considering given circumstances. In every such case special protocol is filled out by the policemen stating the reasons for drug testing. Additionally, Draft order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia was elaborated “on elaboration of grounds to stop and transfer a person to the Forensic Main division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia with the purpose of confirming consumption of drugs and/or psychotropic substances”, which will be approved in the nearest future. Article 2 of the draft order further specifies “the reasonable ground to believe” which have to be in place in order to stop the person and bring him/her to the Forensic Main Division of the MIA for the narco-test. According to the mentioned article “the reasonable ground to believe” exists when the person exhibits listed physical signs, the existence of an operative information on the consumption of the drugs or/and psychotropic substances by the person as well as other physical or behavioral sign or/and circumstance which will make impartial person believe the fact of consumption of drugs or/and psychotropic substances.

Article 3 of the draft order defines the power of the policeman to apply the administrative detention. Hereby it prescribes the obligation of the officer to indicate relevant paragraph of the article 2 (ground for examination) of the draft order in the detention protocol as well as to inform the person about his/her rights under the articles 245 (Administrative Detention) and 251 (Appeal of Administrative detention, examination, seizure of items and documents) of the Code of Administrative Offences of Georgia. With an aim of ensuring the protection of the rights of the affected persons, Georgian legislation provides different appeal mechanisms including judicial oversight. In every drug testing case special protocol is filled out by the policemen stating the reasons for drug testing. According to the order # 126 of the Minister of Internal Affairs from 24 February 2015 (amending the order of the Minister 625 from 15 August 2014) in the protocol shall be provided the rights of the person including the right to appeal the decision of the administrative body in front of a supervisory body/organ or a court and corresponding procedure. The affected person signs the protocol in order to acknowledge the fact that he is familiar with the content.

“Prescription Drug Abuse”

Legislative Amendments and their Outcomes

In order to combat “prescription drug abuse”, legislative amendments have been elaborated together with the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; the amendments entered into force on March 15, 2014. Illicit traffic of combined pharmaceutical substances containing Codeine, Ephedrine, Norephedrine and Pseudoephedrine has been criminalized, especially in terms of imposing liability for owners and employees of pharmacies. From these pharmaceuticals the so-called “homemade drugs” such as: “Crocodile”, “Vint” and “Jeff” are made. In accordance with the statistical data, after adoption of the legislative package, a 90% decrease of the use of “Crocodile” drugs has been identified.

Control of Legal Entities Authorized for Traffic in the First Group Pharmaceutical Products

Based on the Memorandum “On Implementation of Joint Measures for Control and Supervision of Legal Traffic in the First Group Pharmaceutical Products on the Pharmaceutical Market” signed in August 2013 between the MIA and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, a joint working group has been established; the group develops preventive mechanisms against the flow of the first group pharmaceutical products from their legal traffic to illegal channels.

As a result of implementing joint measures for controlling the pharmaceutical market, inter alia, the use of “homemade drugs” has been minimized in the country, as mentioned above.

Followed the joint inspections of the authorized pharmacies by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health of Georgia, 9 767 schedule I controlled substances have been seized for the period from April 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015. By the Order of the State Regulation Agency for the Medical Activities, the licenses of five drug stores were abolished. The total fines amount to 38 000 Georgian Lari.

New Psychoactive Substance

With the purpose of supply reduction of new psychoactive substances, a package of legislative amendments related to new psychoactive substances has been elaborated; the package entered into force on May 1, 2014. Georgia shared the experience of several European countries in terms of criminalization of classes of chemical compounds, what overall reduced the import of new psychoactive substances in the country. Within a short period following the publication of the law, the import of new psychoactive substances in the country has been significantly reduced.

Furthermore, the State Commission, as a permanent monitoring mechanism, has been determined; within the framework of the State Commission three relevant agencies cooperate: Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and Ministry of Finance of Georgia.

The State Commission has the objective to monitor the challenges related to new psychoactive substances in Georgia, to analyze them considering the international experience, opinions of governmental organizations and scientific circles, and submit concrete proposals to the government. The State Commission represents an effective interagency mechanism against illicit traffic in new psychoactive substances. Altogether, 4 Council meetings have been held during the reported period.

Since May 1, 2014 qualitative and quantitative analyzes of up to 500 various types of new psychoactive substances (so-called “Bio”, “Spice”) have been carried out in chemical forensic labs of the Forensic Main Division (the MIA).

The effectiveness of the law is evidenced by the outcomes that have been actually achieved. During the meeting of the State Commission on June 12, 2015, it was reported that similar to the previous months, implementation of the legislation is being conducted efficiently. The fact that only one case of importing new psychoactive substances (NPS) via post was detected (in May 2015) proves a significant NPS reduction tendency. The figures were provided by the Ministry of Finance

It is noteworthy that the measures carried out in regard to new psychoactive substances have been positively assessed in the 2015 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, published by the US State Department.

2.3 Assessment of the government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drugs policy

In December 2013, the Interagency Coordination Council for Combating Drug Abuse approved the Strategy and the Action Plan on Combating Drug Abuse, both based on human rights and scientific evidence. Reforms and Development Agency (Department) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs quarterly reports on the measures/activities carried out by structural units of the MIA, which are envisaged by the Action Plan implementing the Strategy on Combating Drug Abuse.

Since the Elections of October 2012, the Ministry of Internal Affairs chose the vector of balanced drug policy. All initiatives of the MIA are the outcomes of the consecutive policy of the country, which have been planned as a result of the complex analytical work.

Due to the comprehensive analytical work, conducted at the end of 2013 by the MIA, several main directions have been identified that required solution in a short and long-term perspective.

In a short-term perspective, it was necessary to solve the problems related to the so-called “homemade drugs”, new psychoactive substances and illicit traffic of classical drugs. As for the second stage, in a long-term perspective it was necessary for the government to strengthen preventive measures which contribute to avoiding offences. Concerning these issues, the details on concrete activities are provided in the present report.

Also, the Government of Georgia (GoG) elaborated draft for unified prevention strategy to systemize and streamline coordination of preventive activities of state agencies, as well as for its partner organizations. Rehabilitation and secondary prevention are in the center of government’s efforts, as well. Moreover, the Government put many efforts in bringing data collection and analysis, as well as research activities, in line with international standards.

3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral counternarcotics (CN) programs (including those support demand reduction)

Capacity Building of Canine Service

From 2013 with the financial support of US Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is implementing “Canine Project”. Within the framework of this project on June 18, 2013 the Memorandum of Understanding between Georgia Revenue Service and Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, concerning the “Cooperation with regard to Revealing Illegal Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors in Georgia” had been elaborated and signed by the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Service) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. On the bases of the MoU Drug Task Force has been established, which operates at the Border Crossing Point “Tbilisi International Airport” and aims at detection of illegal movement of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. Task Force consists of staff from Customs department (2) and Patrol Police Department (8) and acts within the scope of their competence.

Within the framework of the project also following activities has been implemented:

- 10 sniffer dogs were purchased for the Task Force;
- In 2013-2014 trainings and study visits for the dogs and their handlers were organized in USA and in Turkey;
- 8 kennels were renovated;
- 2 temporary kennels in the vicinity of the BCP Tbilisi airport were constructed;
- Assessment mission of USA Park Police was conducted and relevant recommendations were delivered for further/future actions;
- Systematic trainings and exercises for canine dogs.

Periodically task force works on different border crossing points in order to detect and prevent the illicit drug trafficking.

Container Control Programme

In 2012 was started Container Control Programme CONTAINER CONTROL (CCP) by joint initiative of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and World Customs Organization (WCO). Within the framework of Programme, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Georgia Revenue Service, two Departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Patrol Police Department and Central Criminal Police Department) and UNODC on the establishment of a Joint Port Control Unit in Poti (PCU). The main task of the Joint Unit is to perform effective container control with the aim to prevent trafficking in drugs and other illicit goods.

In the framework of the project trainings and study visits had been organized for the members of the PCU on the issues of dual use cargo identification, risk management, counter-proliferation investigation, WMD (weapons of mass destruction) commodity identification, etc.

Furthermore, the delegations from different countries (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan) visited Poti, Georgia, in order to get familiarized with the operation of the unit and to promote regional cooperation in this regard.

In April, 2015 task force was assembled in Tbilisi Customs Clearance Zone composed of Customs (5 officers), patrol police department (2 officers) and central criminal police department representatives (3 officers). 2 trainings were organized for the newly recruited personnel – 1 training in Custom Service and 1 training at MIA Academy. Additionally in May, 2015 Finnish experts from custom service have been invited, who delivered trainings with practical exercises.

Cooperation with EMCDDA

In June 2014 the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, being part of the delegation of the Interagency Coordination Council on Combating Drug Abuse, participated in the working meeting held in the head office of the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drugs Addiction (EMCDDA) in Lisbon, in order to further enhance cooperation with the EMCDDA. The issue of establishing an observatory on illicit drug traffic and drug abuse in Georgia has been discussed within the framework of the working visit.

On 16-17 April 2015, a regional event on Monitoring and Control of new psychoactive substances was held in Tbilisi. The representatives of the relevant MIA divisions participated in the event. The objective of the event was experience and best practice sharing in terms of NPS regulation. The seminar was organized by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and Interagency Coordinating Council Combating Drug Abuse

More for More

By the end of 2013 the International Organization for Migration (IOM) started implementation of EU funded project 'Reinforcing the Capabilities of the Government of Georgia in Border and Migration Management' (More for More). The project aims to enhance the capabilities of Georgian authorities in the area of integrated border management and migration in line with relevant EU-Georgia Agreements and action plans, in particular the Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP).

One of the activities of the project is to support the MIA Academy in the development of the curriculum on the fight against trafficking in narcotics. To this purpose in April, 2015 EU (Slovakia) expert visited Georgia in order to access the current training programs and draft the recommendations. The expert conducted the meetings with the relevant departments of the MIA, also the visited the border crossing point 'Tsiteli Khidi' and get acquainted with the current training and re-training programs. By the end of the present year the recommendations will be drafted and relevant changes will be made in the curriculum (the duration of the programs will be doubled; new topics/issues will be added).

Conclusion of Bilateral/Multilateral Treaties/Agreements on Combating Drug Abuse

In April, Georgia concluded international agreement with the Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the fight against organized crime, including drug-related crimes.

So far Georgia has concluded international agreements/MoUs on fight against crime and on police cooperation with 25 countries, more precisely with: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Germany, the Great Britain (MoU), Egypt, Estonia, Turkey, Israel, Italy, France, Armenia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Spain, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Hungary, Kazakhstan and the USA(MoU). This process is ongoing and aims at covering the EU Member States and other countries on the level of bilateral cooperation.

Existing International Mechanisms, Police and Customs Attaches' Forum, Mechanisms of Bilateral Agreements/Working Groups

In order to strengthen the international cooperation in the fight against drug abuse, the special services of the Ministry of Internal Affairs effectively use the mechanisms of existing international and regional organizations (UN, EU, GUAM, BSEC, WCO, IOM), Police Attaches' forums, bilateral agreements and working groups.

On 4-6, March, between joint representatives of the MIA of Georgia and representatives of criminal police of the Kingdom of Sweden, the Kingdom of Denmark and the Republic of Finland held a working group meeting on organized crime issues, including drug-related crime.

On 23-27, March, between the Representatives of the MIA of Georgia and the representatives of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania a meeting was held. During the meeting the sides discussed issues on illicit drug trafficking.

On April 21, 2015, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia organized international workshop on "Joint International Law Enforcement Operations" in Tbilisi with the support of Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX). Representatives of the Law Enforcement Agencies from Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, as well as EU Member states, namely, from Austria, Poland, Slovenia and Romania participated in the event.

On 5-6, May, in Kyiv, a meeting of the GUAM working subgroup in the field of drug trafficking was held.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia effectively cooperates with the Turkish side within the framework of Joint Commission Meetings in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in the Field of Security of 1994. Fight against trafficking in drugs is one of the major directions of Joint Commission's activity. Joint Commission Meetings are held annually, alternately in Georgia and the Republic of Turkey.

On 7-8 May, in Tbilisi, the 6th Joint Commission Meeting between the Representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Turkish National Police. The Parties discussed the issues on the fight against illicit drug trafficking,

In May, representatives of the MIA of Georgia held a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Italy. Parties discussed organized crime issues, including drug-related crime.

On May 25, in Tbilisi, a working group meeting within EU project “Heroin Route II“ was held;

On 02-04, June, Cartagena, Georgia participated in the 32nd International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC).

On 01-17, June, in Tbilisi, a working visit of British expert within the EU project “Heroin Route II” was held;

On 22.06-17.07.2015, meetings within the EU project “Heroine Route II” were held:

- Tbilisi, working visits of 2 experts to Georgia from the Great Britain and Spain, 2 colleagues from Romania and the Ukraine;
- Constanta, working visit of officer of the Central Criminal Police Department to Romania;
- Odessa, working visit of officer of the Central Criminal Police Department to the Ukraine;

Capacity Building of Relevant Agencies Combating Drug Abuse with the Assistance of International Organizations/Partner Countries (Implementation of Trainings, Experience Sharing and Study Visits)

March 23-27, 2015 – training course, organized within the framework of UNODC and WCO Container Control Programme, was held in Netherlands and covered the following topics: safety of containers, risk analysis, dual-use cargo, smuggling techniques. 3 police officers took participation.

April 9–20, 2015 – training course on Countering Narcotics and Illicit Trafficking (CNIT) was organized by George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. Topics covered by the course were the following: Transnational organized crime; drug trafficking and other criminal activities as national security threats; transnational criminal groups and terrorist organizations involved in drug trafficking; Cybercrime; Trafficking. One representative of Central Criminal Police of the MIA took participation.

On April 21, 2015, employees of the Expert-Forensic Main Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs participated in the “Blood Stain Pattern Analyses Classes” organized by the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The course was attended by Leslie Viger - Program Director for Europe and Asia of US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and other officials. The course was attended by 20 experts from Expert-Forensic Main Division. They were granted relevant certificates by the end of the course. Similar type of trainings are held on the regular basis for MIA employees.

Sharing Implemented Reforms and the Results Achieved in the Course of Fight against Drug Abuse and Organized Crime with Other Countries

On September 16, 2014 within the framework of the three-day official visit, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia hosted a delegation of experts of the National Police of Turkey, headed by the Director of the International Relations Department of the Turkish National Police. The main objective of the visit was to increase the effectiveness of fight against drug trafficking through joint efforts.

The meetings were held with the representatives of relevant departments of the Ministry. The experts’ group of the National Police of Turkey got acquainted with the legislation on drugs, psychotropic substances, precursors and narcological aid, as well as on new psychoactive substances, the specifics of their application and anti-drug strategy.

The parties discussed the possibility of joint activities in the field of fight against drug crime and plans for future cooperation. During the visit, the delegation of the National Police of Turkey visited forensic laboratory of the Ministry and the Vale Border Crossing Point.

Study Visit on the Issue of Drug Crime Investigation

According to the cooperation program for 2013-2014 with the Republic of Turkey, the study course “Risks Analysis and Drug Detection” was held in Ankara on January 6-10, 2014. The study course was attended by 11 officers of the Central Criminal Police Department.

In the period of March 31-April 11 of 2014 a training course on Countering Narcotics and Illicit Trafficking (CNIT) was held in the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Germany. The following issues have been discussed at the meeting: national security of the 21st century resulted from illicit trafficking of drugs and other criminal activities; involvement of terrorist organizations and transnational criminal groups in drug trafficking. The study course was attended by one officer of the Central Criminal Police Department.

In the framework of K9 project, in February, 2015 study visit in the US took place. 2 new dog handlers, 1 supervisor and 2 old dog handlers, trained as instructors, took participation with the newly purchased service dogs.

Planning and Implementation of the DEA Special Course on the Issues of Illicit Traffic in Drugs

On April 15, 2015, in Kachreti (Georgia), information exchange and experience sharing meeting was held for the experts, DEA regional office representatives and the officers of the Central Criminal Police Department of Georgia.

Retraining Courses on Legislative Amendments

On June 9, 2014 fifty employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor’s Office have been re-trained in regard to the legislative amendments related to the so-called “prescription drug abuse” and new psychoactive substances.

4. Place and date of meetings of mini-Dublin groups

There were no Dublin Group meetings organized.

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

1. General situation in the country

In order to intensify the process of fight against drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and to organize the resistance in an appropriate level in the Republic of Armenia, **in the first half of 2015**, the police units of the RA and the department of fight against illicit drug trafficking of the general department on combating organized crime of police of the RA have carried out several operative, preventive organizational measures, aimed at preventing and detecting such phenomena. The situation on the fight against drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors during 6 months of 2015 was analyzed.

During the first 6 months of 2015 the law enforcement authorities discovered 511 cases related to trafficking of drugs, psychotropic substances /psychotropic drugs/ and precursors in the result of which 240 persons were prosecuted.

During 6 months of 2015 in the result of undertaken operative-investigative measures, the law enforcement authorities discovered and confiscated from illegal circulation and 22 kg 710 grams of various drugs, 17.10 grams of psychotropic substances, and 84.99 ml. of precursors.

The analyses show that the «methamphetamine», «opium» drugs are imported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (mostly by the citizens of Iran), «cocaine» mainly from Latin America and the «subuteks» type of pills, which in its formulation contains «buprenorphine» type of drugs are imported from France via postal deliveries. Hashish oil and marijuana are also imported via postal deliveries from USA,

Furthermore, the cases of illegal drug trafficking of «Spice» type of drugs have been increased.

Continuous efforts are being carried out to include newly emerged drugs and psychotropic substances in the Criminal Code and in relevant Annexes of Administrative Offences Code of the Republic of Armenia. The Police prepared and put into circulation the draft laws on making amendments and additions in Criminal Code and Administrative Offences Code of the Republic of Armenia.

In the fight against drug trafficking, the police of the Republic of Armenia is involved in a number of bilateral and multilateral programs.

In particular, since 2003, each year in the frame of member-states of the Collective Security Treaty Organization /CSTO/, «Kanal» /«Cannel»/ operative preventive measure on resistance and prevention of drug trafficking and drug abuse is being carried out in the Republic of Armenia.

According to the decision of competent heads of agencies of the Coordination Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization member states on combating illicit drug trafficking, from May 18 to May 23 of 2015 the local anti-drug operation <<Kanal-Parek>> /<<Channel-Patrol>> has been conducted, during which 18 cases of drug related crimes have been revealed. 81.27 grams of drugs and 112 psychotropic pills were found and seized.

Furthermore, Police of the Republic of Armenia participates in the UN International Narcotics Control Office ION /international operations against the spread of new psychotropic substances by post/ program, in the frame of which during the first half of 2015 the operations named «Postman» and «MMA» have been conducted. As a result of the mentioned operations the information about number of newly emerged drugs and psychotropic substances that are not under the control in the Republic of Armenia has been obtained.

Drug demand reduction

The "National Institute of Health named after Academician S.Avdalbekyan" CJSC possesses all the databases of cases registered and treated during the year.

Thus, the registered number of drug users was 5 357, as of December 31, 2014 (2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively' 4922, 4332, 3.893).

The total number of registered users (person) was (5.357) 3.223 have been registered for used cannabinoids, 2,132 person used opioids, and only two person used cocaine.

During 2014, narcological services for the first time are registered 574 drug users, from which 407 use cannabinoids (F12), 262 use opioids (F11).

Since 2009, the Republic of Armenia is carried out in methadone substitution treatment program for addicted people.

As of June 30, 2015 methadone substitution treatment programs are implemented in the three major regions: Yerevan, Vanadzor and Gyumri. The Ministry of Justice penitentiary institutions of RA is providing the methadone substitution treatment for more than 400 patients.

Preventive measures in RA are carried out by the efforts of Police, National security service, Ministry of Finance.

Due to the efforts of law enforcement, the struggle against illegal drug trafficking sector is stable, and the drug-related situation is under control.

The drug business and the permanent criminal groups are not available in the country.

Due to drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors in anti-operative-investigative measures undertaken by law enforcement agencies in the first 6 months of 2015, the overall detected cases are: 511 crimes and 171 administrative offenses.

2. Short update on the country's anti-drugs strategy

2.1 Changes/additions to the counternarcotics (CN) institutional framework

The central body for the fight against corruption is the Financial Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the Central Bank of Armenia. The information below is limited to the competence of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia. A larger scope of relevant information regarding countering money-laundering and its demand reduction can be requested from the central authority.

The Republic of Armenia takes appropriate measures for proper fulfilment of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) global anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CFT) standards. For identifying the risks, developing policies, pursuing money laundering, applying preventive measures for the designated sectors, and taking other institutional measures, the Ministry of Justice enacts two major functions that fall in the scope of MLA/CFT: international mutual legal assistance for the cases in the trial stage, as well as control over notaries and non-profit organizations. For the proper implementation of those functions within the means of the fight against money laundering, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia closely cooperates with other State bodies, including the Central Bank. It also periodically provides action plans as well as reports to the competent authority on the actions taken for the elimination and resistance to the potential money laundering.

Particularly, in the scope of the AML/CFT the Ministry of Justice enacts the functions of carrying out communication and cooperation for international mutual legal assistance in the trial stage, deals with the extradition requests to the Republic of Armenia when the case is in the trial stage or when there is a judicial act entered into force against the person subject to extradition, deals with extradition requests from the Republic of Armenia when the case is in the trial stage or when there is a judicial act entered into force against the person subject to extradition, sends motions to the Court for extradition requests, makes a decision on the refusal of extradition of a person located in the area of the Republic of Armenia when there are steady grounds for refusal provided by law and RA international treaties, etc.

The Ministry of Justice takes appropriate measures and cooperates with domestic authorities as well as relevant international organizations and partners in order to bring the implementation of its functions that fall in the scope of AML/CFT in line with the international standards.

2.2 Legal/legislative changes, including money laundering and chemical precursors

On 28 December 2014, president approved " The national strategy of the preventive actions against drug abuse and illegal drug trafficking " which covers all aspects against illegal drug trafficking.

The implementation program and event schedule of drug abuse and drug trafficking on 2015 was approved on 25 September 2014 by N-1053-A decision of the Government of RA. According to the Section II, paragraph 1 of the aforementioned Decision, the Government of RA aims to reduce the circulation of illegal drugs, psychoactive and psychotropic substances in the RA. According to the paragraph 4 of the same section, while struggling against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, the Government ensures multi-agency and international cooperation. It should be noted that the Government approves this decision annually. Moreover, the National Strategy Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking in the RA was approved on February 8, 2015 by PO-226-P Directive of the President of RA. According to the Section V paragraph 4 of the Directive, secondary schools, colleges and other educational institutions include the educational programs and courses relating to the prevention of drug abuse and illegal circulation of drugs.

3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral counternarcotics (CN) programs (including those support demand reduction)

In August 2010 the Ministry of Health and methadone substitution treatment programs are implemented by following institutions within the scope of grant program.

- "Psychiatric Medical Center" CJSC,
- Justice Ministry's Penitentiary Institutions (since May 2011)
- "Lori regional psychiatric dispensary" (since July 2012)
- Global fund of AIDs/HIV TB and malaria(RA)

The Global Fund is financing the harm reduction programs in three large regions of RA ' Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.

4. Place and date of meetings of mini-Dublin groups

There were no Dublin Group meetings organized.

5. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

Drug demand reduction activities of state bodies and organizations , also , with the collaboration of international organizations and individual countries, will greatly contribute to increase of the efficiency and quality of measures due to drug demand reduction.

Possible areas of cooperation proposals are presented below.

Examine the principles and methods provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization for the medical care of drug users, and then apply them for the improvement of narcological actions carried out in RA, and compliance with international practices and the enhancement of trust and quality and efficiency services provided to drug addicts.

1. General situation in the country

The information was provided by the **State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Fight against Drug Addiction and Trafficking of Illicit Drugs** and regards the results of fight against illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors in Azerbaijan for the first half of the year 2015.

During the first half of the year 2015, in the field of fight against drugs 1953 facts were discovered: 566 of which contained illegal obtaining, keeping, transporting and sending the drugs, chemical substances and their precursors for the purpose to sell; 1297 of which contained illegal obtaining and keeping the drugs, chemical substances and their precursors for the purposes not to sell; 80 of which contained illegal cultivating of narcotic plants; 10 of which contained other facts. According to the discovered acts 657 kg 364, 621 grams, in total, different types of narcotic substances and 787 unit hemp bushes were confiscated from illegal trafficking.

The content of confiscated drugs, chemicals and their precursors were: 465 kg 331,557 grams marihuana, 109 kg 129,065 grams opium, 38 kg 328,239 grams heroin, 41 kg 202,591 grams hashish, 3 kg 710,14 grams chemical substances and others, and 787 unit hemp bushes.

As well as, in the result of operational-search actions, under the “Khash-Khash”(poppy) conventional name, 90 tones 278 kg 60 grams of green narcotic plants were gathered in the mass and destroyed.

1251 persons were arrested: 5 persons were under the age of 18; 299 were under the age of 30; 906 were above the age of 30; 15 were labourers; 5 were public servants; 2 were transport employees; 2 were secondary school students, 1068 were unemployed, 1199 were men, 11 women, 39 foreigners. The foreign citizens were from: 17 persons – Iran Islamic Republic, 15 persons – Georgia, 3 persons – Turkey, 1 person - Russian Federation, 2 persons – Ukraine, 1 person – Turkmenistan Republic.

From the presented reports it was determined that the following drugs were withdrawn from illegal trafficking:

- By the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 1807 criminal acts (29 facts were discovered by the Penitentiary Service of the Ministry of Justice, the investigation was carried out by the police station acting in this area): 431 kg 971,885 grams drugs and chemical substances and 787 unit hemp bushes (356 kg 21, 127 grams marihuana, 2 kg 475, 580 grams hashish, 41 kg 929,021 grams opium, 28 kg 366,617 grams heroin, 336,997 grams chemical substances, 3 kg 179, 514 grams others).

-By the Ministry of National Security, 19 criminal acts: 84 kg 981 grams drugs and chemical substances (1 kg 829 grams heroin, 27 kg 613 grams opium, 6 kg 457 grams hashish, 49 kg 71 grams marihuana, 10,4 grams methamphetamines).

-By the State Customs Committee, 109 facts (additionally 4 facts were carried out together with the State Boarder Service and were confiscated 12 kg 674 grams narcotic substances); 67 kg 914,519 grams narcotic substances (1kg 481, 781 grams opium, 33 kg 307,900 grams marihuana, 28 kg 451, 581 grams hashish, 4 kg 490,188 grams heroin, 183,069 grams others);

- By the State Boarder Service, 18 facts (in most cases from the IRAN Islamic Republic to the Azerbaijan Republic); 72 kg 362,972 grams narcotic substances (3 kg 585,306 grams heroin, 38 kg 061,816 grams opium, 26 kg 908,820 grams marihuana, 3 kg 807,030 grams hashish);

- By the State Service of the Ministry of Justice, 29 facts: 134,245 grams narcotic substances (22.71- grams marihuana, 11,400 grams hashish, 42,847 grams opium, 57, 128 grams heroin, 0,160 grams others).

According to the information received by the Ministry of Health, during six months of 2015, 15904 persons passed the medical test, the test which is carried to determine all types of drunkenness cases of the persons who are sent to the Ministry of Health by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. 360 persons out of them were tested on use of drugs and 125 were discovered drug users and were properly registered. Besides this, during the first 6 months of the current year, 1202 persons were taken to stationary treatment and for the following treatments were received: 579 persons for “mental and behavioural disorders in the result of intake of alcohol”, 501 persons “mental and behavioural disorders in the result of intake of opioids”, 122 persons for other diagnoses.

According to the information of the Centre of Fight against AIDS of the Ministry of Health, regarding the information for the mentioned period 18,3% of HIV infected persons among the Azeri citizens, but in totally 52,8% infected persons from 1992 till 01.06.2015 were resulted by use of narcotics through injection way. At the same time for the period of 01.06.2015 in total 2649 HIV/AIDS infected persons were taken to ARV-therapy, 273 persons out of them were during 2015 period. 92 persons out of the newly taken persons are INI infected. 1364 persons out of total amount 2649 ARV therapy involved persons are INI infected and 449 persons out of them are joined to ARV therapy at penitentiary system.

2. Short update on the country's anti-drugs strategy

For the implementation of article 4.2.2 of “The action Plan on implementing Government Program for 2013-2018 on fight against the narcomania and the illegal trafficking of drugs, chemical substances and their precursors”, the project of the ”Law of Azerbaijan Republic “About making amendments on the Code of Administrative Offences of the Azerbaijan Republic”” was prepared and presented. This project was legally accepted with no. 974-IVQD May 30 2014. For the implementation of article 4.2.7 of the Action Plan, the decision no. 276, dated with August 13, 2014, “About affirmation of the “Program on treatment, rehabilitation and re-socialisation of the drug-addicted persons””, was adopted.

The order no. 1267 under the date of June 9, 2015, was signed by the President of the Azerbaijan Republic in order to prepare law project “About the affirmation of the list of mostly-affected and poisonous substances” appropriate to the part “Note” of the article 240 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic on implementation of the law no 1298-IVQD dated on May 29 2015 of the Azerbaijan Republic “About making amendments to the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic”.

At the same time, it was considered to make amendments to the legislation taking into account the improvement of the normative legal base regulating the field of fight against narcomania and drugs, chemical substances and their precursors, as well as the field of the international experience.

The “Government Program for 2013-2018 on fight against the narcomania and the illegal trafficking of drugs, chemical substances and their precursors” was affirmed with the Order no. 2966 under the date of June 24, 2013 of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic.

The purposes of the Government Program are to strengthen the fight against narcomania and illegal trafficking of drugs, chemical substances and their precursors; anti-narcotic propaganda; to prevent the spreading of narcomania and illegal trafficking of drugs; to return to the healthy life the narco-addicted persons after their treatments; to adapt the activities in the treating-rehabilitation field to demands of modern period; to improve the legislation in this field; to implement scientific and practical research for studying effectiveness of punishment measures; to develop the international cooperation and other large scale issues.

Besides the above-mentioned, the Azerbaijan Republic joined the UN 1988 Convention” About the fight against the illegal trafficking of drugs, chemical substances”, 1992, the Single Convention of 1961 on narcotic substances, in 1998, and the 1971 year Convention on chemiscal substances”.

3. Place and date of meetings of mini-Dublin groups

There were no Dublin Group meetings organized.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

1. General situation in the country

The General Police Inspectorate communicated that a number of 361 criminal cases regarding drugs was discovered. One case of drugs smuggling was also discovered, the participants being all Moldavians. 6 cases involved organised criminal groups. The following types of drugs were seized: marijuana – 30 kg 798 grams, hashish – 73 kg 326 grams, poppy straws – 0,628 kg, heroin – 0,020 kg.

2. Short update on the country's anti-drugs strategy

2.1 Changes/additions to the counternarcotics (CN) institutional framework

The Anti-drug Action Plan 2014-2016 was approved through the Government's Decision no. 764 from 18.09.2014.

2.2 Legal/legislative changes, including money laundering and chemical precursors

On the 5th of November 2014 the Moldovan authorities started the procedure for amending and supplementing the Criminal and Contravention Code in order to improve the functionality of legislation and toughen the imposed sanctions. By the end of January, the amendments were proposed to the Government for approval.

On the 18th of November 2014 a number 16 narcotic substances was identified, all of which were not included in the Governmental Decision No. 1088 of 5th October 2004, on the approval of pills and lists of narcotic substances, psychotropic substances and their precursors placed under control", after a process coordinated by the National Antidrug Commission and delivered to the Government for adopting the proposed changes.

2.3 An assessment of the government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drug policy

The implementation of the National Anti-Drug Strategy for the years 2011-2018 was approved by the Governmental Decision No. 1208 of 27.12.2010 is in the competence of several national actors, while the monitoring of its implementation is in the responsibility of the National Antidrug Commission.

The Directorate No. 4 (Antidrug) of the National Investigation Inspectorate is an operational subdivision with competences in preventing and combating illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, which systematically presents relevant information regarding the undertaken measures by the National Drug Observatory of the National Health Management Center of the Ministry of Health.

3. Place and date of meetings of mini-Dublin groups

There were no meetings organized with representatives of the Mini-Dublin Group in the Republic of Moldova.

4. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

- Initiating foreign assistance projects regarding the improvement of the capacities for forensic drug expertise. (*NB!* The activity of the Police Forensic Laboratory is not functional due to the fact that the necessary equipment for expertise is outdated and nonfunctional due to an exceeded exploitation period. Thus, during 2014, it was impossible to resolve the requests for review regarding a number of 124 examinations of drugs.);
- Training course on the investigation procedures of the cases of production and consumption of narcotic and psychotropic substances, precursors and their analogues which are not listed in the list of banned substances;
- Conducting a study visit to the Republic of Poland in order to adopt best practices with regard to investigative techniques of drug related crimes.
