

Civil Servants and Anti-Corruption – Key to successful Public Administration Reform

Organiser: ALDA- The European Association for Local Democracy Agencies, EaP CSF subgroup on Local Government and Public Administration Reform (LGPAR)

Venue: Meeting room 1, Radisson Blu Hotel, Batumi

Date: 21st November 2014

Time: 19:00-20:30

Relevance of civil service reform in anti-corruption efforts

The subgroup LGPAR (Local Government and Public Administration Reform) would like to shed light into the current processes on civil (public) service code reform in the EaP countries, and their relevance to the overall efficient and transparent workings of respective public administration institutions.

Application and enforcement of laws on civil service varies widely among the EaP region. Distinction might be made between appointed civil servants and elected public officials' adherence to the codes. These differences in applicability are often a result of the immunity from prosecution that elected officials are granted under a country's constitution. A code of conduct/ethics within the public administration framework is of particular importance not just in the light of the recent developments in EaP countries such as the dismissal of civil servants of Tbilisi City Hall after the change of the government.¹ An efficient and workable civil (public) service code needs to include: appointments on the basis of fair and open competition, core values of civil servants and public officials such as integrity, honesty, objectivity professionalization, as well as certain levels of openness of (i.e. public-like or private-like) public administration, and impartiality.²

Up until now some Eastern partner countries made good progress in addressing corruption levels, enhancing transparent policy making and e-government while others are lacking behind. Notwithstanding accomplishments of selected countries in selected areas, the prevailing trend in the Eastern Partnership region in recent years has been to move away from European principles of public administration. This development however, took place against the gradual deterioration of governance observed worldwide, including the EU.³ Azerbaijan remains of particular concern in this

¹ Cf. <http://transparency.ge/en/post/general-announcement/dismissals-civil-servants-tbilisi-city-hall-allegedly-political-grounds>. 13.11.2014

² Please see also Teorell, Jan, Nicholas Charron, Stefan Dahlberg, Sören Holmberg, Bo Rothstein, Petrus Sundin & Richard Svensson. 2013. The Quality of Government Basic Dataset made from The Quality of Government Dataset, version 15 May 13. University of Gothenburg: The Quality of Government Institute, <http://www.qog.pol.gu.se>.

³ Cf. Public administration reform in EU Eastern Partners: Comparative Report 2013, No. 14, Estonian Centre for Eastern Partnership, http://eceap.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Review_No14.pdf, p. 6. 13.11.2014

respect with it further consolidating public institutions while engaging in a major crack down on civil society.

The lack of political will and the prevalence of vested interests are often at the heart of the problem. Disrespect of the rule of law in some instances further erodes reform accomplishments.⁴ Furthermore, new research findings suggest that national Parliaments are often not potent enough to establish and implement anti-corruption safeguards, including codes of conduct.⁵ These however are widely believed to decrease corruption levels and increase accountability among public officials – whether elected or appointed, and to make sure the public’s interests are protected.

Speakers from Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova (tbc) will present and discuss the issues highlighted and their progress made in the last legislative period. Particular focus will be laid on: (1) the extent of regulation; (2) the extent of protection, and (3) remuneration and benefit systems of civil servants.

Agenda

19:00-19:10	OPENING REMARKS	ANTONELLA VALMORBIDA , SECRETARY GENERAL OF ALDA, CHAIR OF THE LGPAR SUBGROUP
19:10-19:25	GEORGIAN CIVIL SERVICE CODE: SPOTLIGHT ON MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE	DAVID MELUA , SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF GEORGIA – NALAG
19:25-19:40	THE CIVIL SERVICE REFORM IN UKRAINE: COOPERATION OF CSOS AND GOVERNMENT	VOLODYMYR KUPRII , EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF <i>CCC CREATIVE CENTRE</i> (KIEV, UKRAINE), MEMBER OF LGPAR SUBGROUP
19:40-19:55	PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM IN GEORGIA: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES	LEVAN ALAPISHVILI , THE <i>CENTER FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA (CSR DG)</i> , COORDINATOR OF THE SELF-GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
19:55-20:10	PROMOTING ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTERESTS' POLICIES TO PREVENT CORRUPTION: THE CASE OF MOLDOVA	LILIA CARASCIUC , EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - MOLDOVA
20:10-20:30	Q&A AND DISCUSSION	MODERATED BY ANTONELLA VALMORBIDA

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Please see <http://www.transparency.org/enis> for further information. Of the 25 countries surveyed for this study, only eight have codes of conduct for parliamentarians. 13.11.2014

