



THE CALLS FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION HAVE FINISHED ON MAY 23

- Support for development cooperation in Georgia and Moldova
- Increasing public awareness and support for development cooperation.

As a result of the Call, 10 development co-operation projects will be implemented in Moldova and Georgia, and three projects - to increase public awareness about development cooperation issues.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN MOLDOVA IN 2006



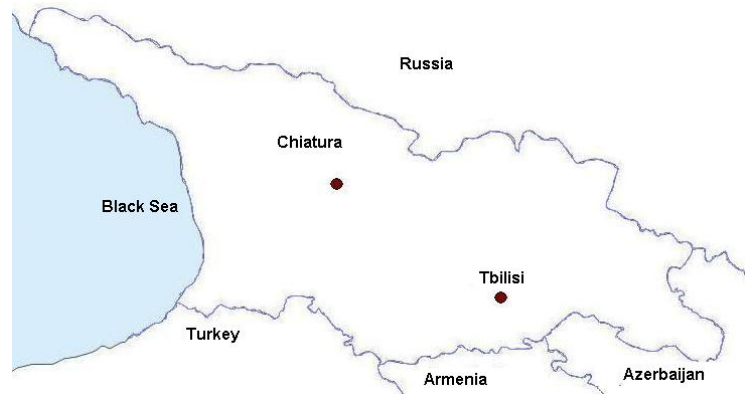
▪ To improve the economic situation in Moldova, strengthening of the administrative capacity of state institutions and local governments is important in order to improve the infrastructure, social environment, etc. The Council of Ogre district will enhance the administrative capacity of Moldova's local government - Basarabesca, by developing cooperation with Latvian local governments.

▪ In the framework of another supported project, the Latvian company "Comperio" will share with Latvia's experience in organizing state planning processes with representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Moldova, and of the Institute Economics, Finance and Statistics of Moldova.

▪ The Moldovan environmental protection system is in the very early stages of its development. The Latvian state company "Vides Projekti" will organize activities in Moldova to facilitate the development of Moldovan state administration and environmental protection.

- Since one of the most acute problems of Moldovan agriculture is the low rate of production, which is not hindering to the development of entrepreneurship in rural areas, the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Center will implement a project with the aim to promote development of education in the agricultural sector of the Republic of Moldova.
- In order to promote development of the civil society in Moldova, in autumn 2006, Latvia's Platform for Development Cooperation (LAPAS) will organize the Moldova-Latvia civil society forum *On the Way to the European Union*. In addition to that, the Latvian company *Comperio* will implement a project to promote public involvement in the decision-making process.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS IN GEORGIA IN 2006



- Due to inefficient work of local governments leading to increases in administrative costs in Georgia, local government tasks are not being effectively implemented. At present Georgian local governments are undergoing significant changes and, in order to provide support and share the Latvian experience in implementing reforms within the local government system, the *Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments* will implement a project aimed at promoting the development of a democratic and decentralized local government system in Georgia. The project seeks to improve the competence of executive directors of Georgian local governments to provide more efficient service.
- Within another project, Latvia's Sigulda District Council will renew its cooperation with the local government of Chiatura in Georgia, the beginnings of which date back to 1957. Representatives of the Sigulda City Council will provide theoretical and practical support for local government development in Chiatura.
- The Latvian organization "*Delna*" will implement a project aimed at developing civil society in Georgia, thus enhancing the ability of local NGOs and the media to professionally assess whether the elections take place in accordance with the principles of democracy, and identify cases of misuse of administrative resources in pre-election campaigns.
- To support development of the Georgian film industry, experts from the National Film Center of Latvia will provide support for the training of Georgian documentary film producers, and will promote information and cultural exchanges between Georgia and Latvia.



COMMUNICATION PROJECTS IN 2006

- *LAPAS* will organize an exhibition entitled *Striving for the Dream* on the UN Millennium Development Goals and development co-operation, which will be presented at five Latvian universities in the autumn of 2006. In addition to the exhibition, students will have the opportunity to attend presentations on development issues given by experts from various sectors. On 9 September, a public project entitled *Opportunity Market* will take place, where various representatives from civil society will offer their experiences in the area of development co-operation, supplementing the project with cultural activities such as films, dances, music, etc.
- The development education organization *GLEN* Latvia will implement a project *Un KO Latvija? (And what about Latvia?)*, which will feature a photographic exhibition of development co-operation projects implemented by the *GLEN* organization in Sri Lanka, Namibia, Ghana, and India. At the locations of the exhibition, sites, well-known politicians, development co-operation experts, local government representatives, teachers, students and other members of the public will discuss issues related to global problems and to the role of Latvia in facilitating solutions.
- The company "Vides Projekti" will prepare video and photographic material on actual development co-operation projects and their achievements in Georgia. The prepared material will be presented in a broadcast on the Latvian television entitled *Vides Fakti* to be made available in DVD format to all interested parties.

Minister for European and transatlantic integration of Georgia visits Latvia

On June 20-21, the Minister for European Affairs and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia, Giorgi Baramidze, made an official visit to Latvia. The visit had a wide-reaching purpose, including meetings with the Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga; Speaker of the Saeima Ingrida Udre; Heads of Saeima Commissions; Prime Minister Aigars Kalvitis; Minister of Foreign Affairs Artis Pabriks; and State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Edgars Rinkevics.

Latvian participants expressed their support for close cooperation between Georgia and the European and transatlantic structures, and for the recently started state reform process, offering to share with the Latvian experience in implementing reforms.

DEVELOPMENT YOUTH PRIZE 2006 "FOCUS ON AFRICA"

Young people between the age of 16-18 are invited to take part in the competition "Focus on Africa".

The competition requires young people to prepare an artwork in the form of a photograph, poster or media presentation. The work must relate to one of the following topics: education, health or environment.

The first place winner and his or her teacher will be offered a trip to one of the African states in 2007.

Winners of first and second places, and their teachers, will participate in the European Development Days in Brussels, where the award ceremony for the winners is scheduled to take place this autumn.

Louis Michel, Commissioner responsible for Development and Humanitarian Aid, has donated the Prize with an aim to arouse interest among students, teachers and their families in development co-operation.

More information: www.dyp2006.org

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia provides support for establishing personnel training system in Georgia

From June 14-16, the Personnel Department of MFA of Latvia conducted a seminar for its counterparts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. At the seminar, Latvian representatives shared with their experiences in developing personnel policy and in creating a system of personnel training. The project was implemented with financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden.

The seminar was a confirmation that Latvia is ready to contribute to improving the Georgian state administration system by sharing its own reform experience.

ON JULY 17 LATVIA SIGNED THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT ON THE 10th EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Internal Agreement on the Formation of the 10th European Development Fund is envisaged as a financial instrument for providing Community assistance to African, Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean states for the period 2008-2013. The purpose of the agreement is to enhance economic, social and cultural development and to strengthen democracy in these countries.

The total budget of the 10th European Development Fund for co-operation with African, Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean countries for the period 2008-2013 is LVL 15.9 billion. It is anticipated that Latvia will provide 0.07% of this total.



II International public administration summer institute

For the second year, the Latvian State Chancellery and the Latvian School of Public Administration, in co-operation with the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, organized a *Public Administration Summer Institute*, which took place between June 26-30 this year.

The aim of the *Summer Institute* is to provide competent training for civil servants and potential decision makers on issues of public administration. The training develops the professionalism of civil servants and provides an opportunity to establish a unique co-operation network and experience exchange between academics, practitioners and NGOs of various countries.

The *Summer Institute* was attended by representatives from the Baltic States, Scandinavia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia and other CIS countries. The Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported attendance at the *Summer Institute* of participants from Georgia and Moldova under its development cooperation program.

SEPTEMBER 9, THE DAY OF THE WORLD

On September 9 this year World Day took place in Riga, aiming to draw the attention of the Latvian public to global development problems, and to reveal opportunities for Latvia to become involved in their resolution.

The event provided an opportunity for various representatives of civil society to meet each another and introduce their activities and discuss such issues as poverty, human rights, fair trade, environment in third world countries, etc.

The event included a youth debating tournament on issues of development co-operation, thus fostering their interest in global problems.

There was also a cultural programme, providing performances of music and dance of the world nations. The event is organised by Latvia's Platform for Development Co-Operation.

In September this year, from the Latvian donations 2 elementary schools are to open in Sri Lanka

Responding to the devastation of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean at the end of 2004, the people of Latvia donated funds for tsunami victims in Sri Lanka. Altogether the Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka in Latvia received a total of USD 18,000.

In 2006, in co-operation with the Latvian Honorary Consul in Sri Lanka, a Latvian tsunami assistance mission was established with the aim to co-ordinate the effective dispersal of donations. This year, the Latvian donation will be used to construct two elementary schools in the south of Sri Lanka. 30 children from nearby districts will attend each of the newly constructed schools. The donations will also provide salaries for the employment of two teachers in the new schools for 12 months. The coordinator of the Latvian mission is Janis Kirpitis, who participated in a tsunami assistance project in Sri Lanka in 2005, educating local residents on the causes of earthquakes and tsunamis. The purpose of that project was to attempt to lessen local residents' superstitious fear of the ocean.

Information prepared by
Department of Development Cooperation Policy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
7016165

<http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/DevelopmentCo-operation/>