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NATO-Georgia Professional Development Programme

The NATO-Georgia Professional Development Programme (PDP) is a practical instrument provided by the NATO Allies to support Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration aspirations. First launched in 2009, the programme aims to enhance the professional skills of key civilian officials, particularly in the defence and security sector, in order to strengthen capacity for effective democratic management, oversight and support of ongoing reforms identified by the government of Georgia, such as civil service and security sector reforms. The PDP was established based on the request of the government of Georgia. The formal agreement between the Government of Georgia and NATO on the establishment of the programme was ratified by the Parliament of Georgia and is subject to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.



At the initial stage, the main objective of the programme was to contribute to the capacity-building of the Georgian Ministry of Defence's personnel. Since 2011, the beneficiaries of the PDP have further expanded and included state entities from the wider defence and security sector. The programme's operation has been running through a number of phases, each with its own specific objectives. The PDP supported various state agencies from the defence and security sector in implementing public administration reforms as well as developing professional skills and building capacity of civil servants within the wider defence and security sector.

In 2022-2023, strategic directions of the programme were revised, resulting in the identification of new policy pillars and focus areas from 2023 onwards. Current priorities of the programme aim to support Georgia, through capacity-building activities, in achieving the following objectives:

- Strengthening institutional capacity-building – supporting training institutions and human resource management reform in the defence and security sector;
- Building cyber capabilities – through professional development and provision of international qualifications;
- Increasing resilience – through building educational capabilities and sharing international best practice.

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