

NATO-GEORGIA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PDP)

PDP is a NATO capacity-building programme of direct assistance to Georgian MOD and other security institutions. It was launched in May 2009 at Georgia's request. It is a NATO member nation and Partner initiative the implementation of which is supported by the NATO HQ IS (DPP) and a NATO subcontracted Program Management Team which is based in Georgia and works in cooperation with the local NATO Liaison Office. From June 2011 the Programme has officially entered its Phase II, which means extending training to other security sector institutions in addition to MOD.

The aim of the Programme is to enhance Georgia's ability to exercise democratic civilian control of the armed forces and other security institutions, to conduct MOD business effectively, and to manage Euro-Atlantic integration efficiently.

The method of PDP is focused training in Tbilisi and abroad for civilian employees of MOD and other defence and security institutions; advice and assistance on MOD business practice and procedures. Training and education provided in the framework of this programme is closely aligned to Georgia's defence and security sector reform objectives outlined in the Annual National Program.

It is a trust-fund based programme supported by cash and in-kind contributions by Allies, Partners, implemented by IS/DPP with guidance, oversight, and review provided by a Steering Committee of contributing nations and managed by a Tbilisi-based programme team.

The participating nations include Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden (participating within the framework of the Nordic-Baltic Initiative (NBI)), Poland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and Georgia.

UK and Nordic Baltic Initiative are the Programme co-leads. UK also contributes a Special Defence Advisor in support of the PDP, who as of Sept 2011 resides in Tbilisi.

Programme currently addresses English language training, defence policy and planning, human resource management, core management competencies development, education management and support to the National Defence Academy, information analysis, and public relations as priority areas. Several NATO nations have voluntarily taken on coordinating roles in several of the priority areas.

Within the Georgian MOD, the programme is overseen by a Programme Management Board, which is chaired by Deputy Defence Minister Mr. Andro Barnovi, co-chaired by the NATO PDP Lead Nations' Representatives (NBI & UK), with other members being the Georgian MOD Policy Director, Personnel Director, International Co-operation Director, Head of Administration, and the PDP Programme Manager. In Phase II the Board has started to include also representatives of other security sector institutions.

The programme is managed on a day-to-day basis by the Tbilisi-based Programme Manager and Assistant Programme Manager. The Programme has been also using interns from local universities to support the organisation of education and training activities carried out by the PDP.

In autumn 2009 the MOD assigned renovated premises on the Ministry's compound as NATO-Georgia PDP Training Centre. The centre is used regularly to conduct local trainings and consultation for MOD and inter-agency groups.