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**D-A-CH – Analysis  
of state documentation**

**Georgia:  
Medical care – treatment options**

**June 2011**

## **Disclaimer**

This product has been created from the state documentation of the Federal Asylum Office (BAA) as part of the D-A-CH cooperation agreement, in accordance with the joint EU guidelines for the processing of fact-based information about countries of origin (2008). The analysis has been compiled on the basis of carefully selected information sources that are publicly accessible. References are provided for all the sources used.

The explanations contained in this product represent analytical evaluations of existing primary sources and known facts that have been incorporated into the existing product objectively and on an equal basis. In the evaluation process, the emphasis was placed on the greatest possible scientific accuracy, and on balance and objectivity.

This product is not intended to be exhaustive, and no conclusions can be drawn from it regarding the legal assessment of a concrete asylum procedure. In particular, this document cannot be classified as a political statement by the Federal Office of Migration and Refugees (BAMF), the Federal Asylum Office (BAA) and the Federal Office of Migration (BFM).

[http://www.ejpd.admin.ch/content/dam/data/migration/laenderinformationen/herkunftslaenderinformationen/coi\\_leitlinien-d.pdf](http://www.ejpd.admin.ch/content/dam/data/migration/laenderinformationen/herkunftslaenderinformationen/coi_leitlinien-d.pdf)

and

<http://www.staatendokumentation.at/standards-analysen-staatendokumentation-2008-07-18.pdf>

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## **Summary**

In principle, almost any disease can be treated in Georgia; even complex neurological and cardiological operations can be carried out, as can kidney transplants. However, liver transplants cannot be carried out. A wide range of medicines are available in pharmacies, both as original products and as generic drugs. Prescriptions are required solely for psychotropic drugs.

Hepatitis and most secondary diseases are treatable, with the exception of liver transplants. The costs must be borne by the patient. There is an option here to take out a non-interest-bearing loan from the "Republik Bank" in order to pay the costs.

HIV/AIDS is treated free of charge in Georgia; only the HIV test, which costs GEL 20 (approx. EUR 9) must be paid for. This programme is funded by Global Fund and treatment can be obtained without a waiting period. The AIDS Centre is located in Tbilisi, although it also has branches in Batumi, Kutaisi, Zugdidi and Sukhumi.

Patients who are addicted to drugs have the option to undergo withdrawal or to fight their addiction with the aid of substitution programmes. There are both state substitution programmes and substitution programmes financed by Global Fund. In the state programmes, the patient must pay 40% of the total cost, which is GEL 150 (approx. EUR 64) per month. For people with HIV/AIDS or severe chronic illnesses, the state pays the full cost. The programmes of Global Fund are completely free of charge. At present, there are a total of 15 programmes in eight regions of Georgia. Treatment for addiction is therefore possible in principle, although rehabilitation and in particular the reintegration of addicts into society is difficult. NGOs are attempting to compensate for the shortage of follow-up treatment through the use of specific projects for this purpose. A state rehabilitation centre is currently being planned.

With respect to mental illnesses, the cost of treatment depends on the type of illness. The state pays the costs for all forms of psychosis, for example, but not for neuroses. Regular treatment is guaranteed for mental disorders, although the living conditions in inpatient clinics are in need of improvement.

## **1. Introduction**

This analysis looks at the treatability and the costs of hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, drug withdrawal and mental illnesses in Georgia. The background information relates mostly to the fact-finding mission (FFM) conducted in April 2011 as part of the D-A-CH cooperation agreement, and for this reason we recommend reading the report that has been published. Furthermore, we would refer you to the D-A-CH analysis “An overview of the Georgian health system – structure, services and access” from June 2011, as this describes the general part of the Georgian health system. These two D-A-CH analyses (‘An overview of the Georgian health system – structure, services and access’, and ‘Georgia: Medical care – treatment options’) have been prepared as related products within the D-A-CH cooperation agreement. We also drew on publicly accessible sources.

## **2. The fact finding mission – organisations visited**

During the stay in Tbilisi as part of the D-A-CH fact finding mission, several hospitals, research centres and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that deal with medical issues were visited. A brief description of the organisations visited is provided below:

### **IOM**

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), founded in 1951, is the leading international organisation in the field of migration. The IOM cooperates closely with governments and international and non-governmental organisations to enable the migration process to take place in an orderly and humane manner, to promote international cooperation, to find practical solutions to further challenges and to offer humanitarian aid to needy migrants.<sup>i</sup>

### **HEPA Clinic**

HEPA is a private outpatient clinic for the treatment of hepatitis. A close cooperation exists between the clinic and [medical facilities/organisations in] France. The facilities at the clinic are impressively new and modern. HEPA was the first clinic in the former USSR territory to have a fibroscan, and is still the only one in the South Caucasus. Everything to do with hepatitis can be carried out here.<sup>ii</sup>

### **Medical Prophylactic Centre #1 – Polyclinic**

This polyclinic employs 239 staff and is reachable within 15 minutes for 75,000 people. It is an outpatient clinic, and also hosts a modest state methadone programme, while also providing a small ward for rehabilitation.

### **Tanadgoma (Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health)**

Tanadgoma was founded in October 2000 as a Georgian non-governmental and non-profit organisation. The NGO has four offices (in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi and Zugdidi) and employs 59 staff. Tanadgoma not only offers a variety of special projects, but also advice via the hotline, homepage, face-to-face consultations, HIV tests etc. The NGO operates in the areas of reproductive medicine, drug addiction, HIV/AIDS and homosexuality, among others. All consultations are anonymous and free of charge.<sup>iii</sup>

### **Private clinic Bemoni**

Alcohol and drug addicts are treated here, in addition to patients with neuroses. Detoxification, individual psychological support, group therapy, physiotherapy, sport and fitness are offered. Inpatient treatment is provided for 21 days, followed by nine days of outpatient treatment – the patient must attend the clinic daily, after which there is one month of rehabilitation. The social workers at the clinic are former drug addicts, which makes it easier for them to work with the patients. Each room has two beds – one for the patient and one for the person accompanying the patient.<sup>iv</sup>

### **AIDS Centre (Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center)**

The centre as a whole is divided into several departments. Seven doctors, ten nurses and two directors work in the HIV department. The AIDS Centre is the most important state institution for the development, implementation and coordination of all activities against the spread of HIV/AIDS. The centre has branches in various districts and regions throughout Georgia, and performs tests, carries out observations and provides treatments for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C and other viral infections. Scientific investigations are also conducted into these subjects. The centre is also responsible for the prevention of these diseases.<sup>v</sup>



### **National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NDCD) and methadone clinic**

The NDCD was founded as a central agency for public health. Its main duties include: monitoring of contagious and non-contagious infectious diseases, prevention and health promotion, investigation of outbreaks of disease, national immunisation programmes, medical statistics, further training etc.

The methadone clinic is based in the same building and is guarded by cameras and two police officers. It has been assured that these police officers are present not because of the patients, but mainly due to the fact that the entire country's supply of methadone is stored at this clinic.<sup>vi</sup>

### **3. General remarks**

For detailed information about the health system in Georgia, please refer to the D-A-CH analysis "An overview of the Georgian health system – structure, services and access" from June 2011 and the D-A-CH report on the FFM in Georgia from April 2011.

The health system in Georgia has undergone profound reorganisation in the last few years. In the last two to three years in particular, medical care in Georgia has made substantial progress. Many hospitals have been privatised, and the majority of institutions are now well equipped, while almost all diseases can now be treated in Georgia. This also includes complex neurological and cardiological operations<sup>vii</sup>; moreover, kidney transplants can be carried out, but not liver transplants.<sup>viii</sup> A very wide range of medicines are available in Georgia, both as original products and as generic drugs.<sup>ix</sup>

In the case of medical emergencies, treatment in emergency hospitals is free for the first three days, after which it is necessary to pay for the stay at the standard price.<sup>x</sup>

Although there are differences in medical care between Tbilisi and the regions, it was discovered during the FFM that there is at least one hospital in each region that has both adequate equipment and well-trained staff. Basic medical care is also available in the villages.<sup>xi</sup>



#### **4. Treatment options in Georgia**

In the following section, we will deal with the treatment options that are currently available and the costs for hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, mental illnesses and drug addiction. This information relates to statements obtained from doctors and employees working in the various hospitals, state programmes and NGOs during the FFM.

##### **4.1. Hepatitis**

Hepatitis and most secondary diseases can be treated in Georgia. The costs of these treatments must be borne by the patient himself. According to the private clinic HEPA, which was visited as part of the FFM in Georgia in April 2011, liver transplants cannot be carried out, and patients would need to travel to either Azerbaijan or Turkey for these operations.

The costs and the duration of treatment for hepatitis depend on the genotype. At the private clinic HEPA, they are as follows.<sup>xii</sup>

- For genotype 2 and 3, treatment lasts 24 weeks and costs approximately GEL 14,400 (approx. EUR 6,140<sup>xiii</sup>)
- For genotype 1 and 4, treatment lasts 48 weeks and costs approximately GEL 29,000<sup>xiv</sup> (approx. EUR 12,366)

Although treatment is not easily affordable for the average Georgian citizen, around 500 patients are treated at the HEPA Clinic every month. About 10% end treatment earlier for cost reasons. 10-15% of the patients can afford treatment themselves, while the rest have to secure support from friends and family: cars, houses etc. are sold to enable the sick person to receive treatment. Another option for those suffering from hepatitis is to take out a non-interest-bearing loan from the “Republik Bank”.<sup>xv</sup>

At the HEPA Clinic, hepatitis is treated with a weekly injection of interferon. Patients also have to take tablets, which – in contrast to interferon – are provided free of charge by the pharmaceutical companies.<sup>xvi</sup> Hepatitis tests and treatment are also carried out at the AIDS Centre in Tbilisi.<sup>xvii</sup><sup>xviii</sup>

All the consequences of hepatitis, including cirrhosis of the liver, can be treated in Georgia, although liver transplants cannot be performed. The costs amount to GEL 530 (approx. EUR 226) for a consultation, examination and treatment. If no complications occur, the costs are GEL 300 (approx. EUR 128). The state pays 60% of this – there is no time limit on this financial support.<sup>xix</sup>

#### **4.2. HIV/AIDS**

Treatment for HIV/AIDS is free in Georgia. The patient only needs to pay for the HIV test, which costs GEL 20 (approx. EUR 9).<sup>xx</sup> By way of comparison, the subsistence level in 2010 was GEL 149.50 (approx. EUR 64) for one person and GEL 265 (approx. EUR 113) for a family of four.<sup>xxi</sup> If the test is positive, the patient is added to a database and all further costs for tests and treatment are paid by Global Fund, the international funding vehicle for combating the major infectious diseases of AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.<sup>xxii-xxiii</sup>

The main centre for HIV/AIDS is located in Tbilisi, although there are also branches in Batumi, Kutaisi, Zugdidi and Sukhumi.<sup>xxiv</sup> All of these institutions are designed for both inpatient stays and outpatient treatment. 18 beds are available at the newly renovated AIDS Centre in Tbilisi, of which 15 were occupied at the time of the FFM. We were also informed that there are no waiting lists for treatment, as demand does not exceed supply. Each person who requires treatment will receive it. The AIDS Centre is also involved in prevention work and has a public relations department, where information is provided on the subject of HIV/AIDS.<sup>xxv</sup>

According to partners at the AIDS Centre, the HIV rate is not rising; rather, screening has improved and more infected people are receiving treatment, which has led to an increase in the official AIDS rate. HIV was previously a highly taboo subject, but awareness has improved in recent years, which means that many people are now contacting the centre on their own initiative and not solely due to a referral by their doctor.<sup>xxvi</sup> Fear of social stigmatisation can nevertheless arise, even if discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS is prohibited by law.<sup>xxvii</sup>

There are several NGOs in Georgia that care for people infected with HIV, and that run prevention projects. One example that should be mentioned is the “Georgia HIV Prevention Project”. The aim of this project is to reduce the social stigma and raise awareness with regard to HIV. As well as distributing condoms and organising campaigns in connection with World AIDS Day on 1 December, the project provides handbooks for teachers, pupils and parents, to promote education. Since 2002, there has been an international forum for NGOs with regard to HIV/AIDS, which has enabled a lively exchange of information among organisations.<sup>xxviii</sup>

Global Fund finances not only treatment, but also further projects, such as the programme for the treatment of co-infections and the programme for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission. The costs of further training courses for staff of the AIDS Centre are also paid, and the renovation of the building was financed by Global Fund. The patients therefore do not incur any costs for treatment or for the hospital stay itself, although their relatives must bring meals during an inpatient stay.<sup>xxix</sup>

### **4.3. Drug addiction**

Drug use is widespread in Georgia and is now a serious problem throughout the country. While opioids such as heroin were the main drugs used at the beginning of this decade, there has since been a change in the use of drugs, and pharmaceutical drugs are now a particularly large problem.<sup>xxx</sup>

Hard drugs such as heroin are now very difficult to obtain on the black market, as the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs carries out very strict checks. For this reason, consumers are increasingly turning to the pharmaceutical drugs mentioned above. Medicines with psychoactive ingredients are dispensed only on prescription, to prevent the possible extraction and processing of these substances into illegal drugs.<sup>xxxi</sup>

If the police catch someone taking drugs for the first time, that person is punished with a fine (approx. GEL 500; approx. EUR 213) or is given a short prison sentence. A second offence can lead to a prison sentence of seven years or a fine of approximately GEL 2000 (approx. EUR 853).<sup>xxxii</sup> Owing to strict controls by the police and stringent legislation, it has become difficult for drug addicts to find a dealer and a place where they can inject themselves without being sent to prison.<sup>xxxiii</sup> If someone is apprehended by the police for a drugs offence, or if someone is participating in a methadone programme, he or she will be entered in a state register. One problem with this is that it can lead to disadvantages when looking for employment. It is not clear whether and in which cases it is known who is on this list.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

Drug withdrawal or detoxification can be carried out at the Bemoni inpatient clinic in Tbilisi, for example. The private clinic has 10 beds; in each case, one bed is intended for the patient and one for the person accompanying the patient (a family member, friend or nurse). The rooms are equipped with a TV, refrigerator and air conditioning. The cost is GEL 300 (approx. EUR 128) per day (by way of comparison, one day costs approximately EUR 400 in Europe). The success rate – i.e. two years of being clean – is 16-19%. There are former patients who have been in contact with the clinic for 10-15 years. They can attend the clinic at any time if they have problems. Treatment is anonymous, and the clinic is located in a general hospital. The staff comprises two doctors, two psychologists, three social workers and ten nurses.<sup>xxxv</sup>

The state began dispensing methadone in Kutaisi in 2008, and 120 people there receive methadone every day. In 2008, the figure was only 20 people. The centre employs 12 staff, including three doctors, four nurses, a social worker and a psychologist. The target group stipulated by the government is drug addicts who are over 25 years of age and take hard drugs such as heroin intravenously.<sup>xxxvi</sup> There are people who have come to the centre every day since 2008 for methadone. The centre is open daily from 10:00 to 15:00. The centre is reportedly understaffed, and staff are generally said to be exhausted.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

The polyclinic No. 1 in Tbilisi also offers a modest state methadone programme, including a small ward for rehabilitation measures.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

Drug substitution was previously financed solely by Global Fund programmes, but today there are also state drug substitution programmes. The difference lies mainly in the cost to users. While the Global Fund programmes are completely free, the state will pay the full cost of substitution treatment only for people with HIV/AIDS and chronic illnesses. Patients who do not come under this group must pay 40% of the total cost of the state programmes (GEL 150 per month; approx. EUR 64) themselves.<sup>xxxix</sup> The remaining 60% is paid by the state. The user thus pays for the medical services, while the state bears the cost of the methadone and the staff costs.<sup>xl</sup> The prices of drugs on the black market are thought to be slightly higher than the proportion of the cost of state substitution that must be paid.<sup>xli</sup>

On one hand, it was noted during the FFM that the number of patients in the state programme was not as high as expected, given the large number of drug addicts<sup>xlii</sup>; on the other hand, the methadone programmes sponsored by Global Fund were criticised for being inadequate, as payment is being provided for only 300 people, while 1200 are said to need substitution treatment.<sup>xliii</sup>

There are currently a total of 15 substitution programmes in eight regions of Georgia.<sup>xliv</sup> State centres that dispense methadone can be found in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Telavi, Poti, Zugdidi and Ozurgeti.<sup>xlv</sup> There are also newer state programmes in Batumi, Gori and Tbilisi.<sup>xlvi</sup> Global Fund has centres in Tbilisi, Gori and Batumi.<sup>xlvii</sup>

Methadone and substitution programmes are therefore definitely in place. According to the relevant partners of the FFM, one problem is said to be the rehabilitation and reintegration of (former) drug addicts into society, particularly reintegration into the employment market. After withdrawal, psychological support is offered for two to three months, but no further assistance is provided.<sup>xlviii</sup> For this reason, a rehabilitation centre, which is to be financed by the government and international sponsors, is currently being planned.<sup>xlix</sup> This centre is to be built in Bazaleti (not far from the capital, Tbilisi), will cover an area of 4000 m<sup>2</sup> and will be able to

accommodate 50-80 people. The rehabilitation centre will contain various medical wards, training centres, sports halls, residences etc. The plan is to enable patients to stay for between one and six months, with the option of allowing a member of the patient's family to live at the centre. In addition to rehabilitation programmes such as occupational therapy, psychosocial rehabilitation will also be offered.<sup>i</sup> It has not yet been decided when the rehabilitation centre will open.

The shortage of follow-up treatment is currently being countered with projects run by NGOs and other organisations, with foreign financing. One example that should be mentioned is the local NGO Tanadgoma, which works with drug addicts, among other people. A further 15 NGOs in addition to Tanadgoma deal with drug addiction. The umbrella organisation is the “Georgian Harm Reduction Network”.<sup>ii</sup> Not only is free, anonymous advice and psychosocial care provided, but training for the employment market and assistance with setting up small businesses is also offered. According to the head of the NGO, the programme has been very satisfactory and there was considerable demand for such programmes.

(Former) drug addicts can obtain further psychosocial care from the anti-drugs centre at the Patriarchate of Georgia, for example.<sup>iii</sup>

#### **4.4. Psychiatric illnesses**

The state pays some of the costs for treating mental illnesses. For example, the state pays for all types of psychosis, but not for neuroses. However, neuroses may be included in certain health insurance packages.<sup>iii</sup> The treatment of epilepsy is also free for the patient, “but only if psychiatrically abnormal behaviour has been shown. For example, a patient suffering from epilepsy and depression will be treated for both free of charge, irrespective of whether he is treated on an outpatient or inpatient basis.”<sup>iv</sup> The state also pays for the infrastructure and the necessary medication in the form of generic drugs.<sup>iv</sup>

In principle, “ongoing, regular psychological treatment is guaranteed to Georgian citizens in Georgia if a disorder is diagnosed. Both outpatient and inpatient treatment is available.”<sup>vi</sup>

The WHO diagnosis classification ICD-10<sup>lvii</sup> has been used in psychiatry for eight years; in accordance with this, post-traumatic stress disorder (F43.1), trichotillomania (F63.3) and somatisation disorder (F45) can be treated in Georgia.<sup>lviii</sup> Treatment of remittent paranoid schizophrenia is also possible in Georgia. At the research institute for psychiatry, both outpatient and inpatient treatment is free. Treatment in private clinics must be paid for.<sup>lix</sup> There are also psychosomatic treatment wards and treatment hospitals for children and adolescents.<sup>lx</sup>

Many psychiatrists in Georgia still work according to the old “Soviet school”. There are few psychiatrists/psychologists who are familiar with the latest medical literature and who work according to it. Mental illnesses are treated mainly with medication. Psychotherapy is available from a few private psychologists/psychotherapists in Georgia.<sup>lxi</sup> The living conditions in the psychiatric hospitals also still leave a lot to be desired, despite the efforts of the government.<sup>lxii</sup>

Psychosocial care for mentally ill patients is provided, for example, by NDOBA, the Georgian association for psychosocial aid, and by GAMH, the Georgian mental health association.<sup>lxiii</sup>

## **5. Conclusion**

The FFM in Georgia focused above all on the treatability and costs of hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, drug withdrawal and mental illnesses, as these are frequently brought up. While the patient must pay the entire cost of hepatitis treatment, treatment for HIV/AIDS is free. For drug addicts, there are both state substitution programmes and programmes financed by Global Fund. For mental illnesses, the costs depend on the disease concerned. The state pays the costs for all forms of psychosis, for example, but not for neuroses.

Although a relatively good standard of hepatitis treatment is available, the costs are very high for an average Georgian. Depending on the genotype, treatment at the HEPA Clinic costs GEL 14,400 or GEL 29,000 (approx. EUR 6,140 or EUR 12,366). Despite this, the percentage rate of early termination of treatment at this clinic is surprisingly low at around 10%, and the number of patients receiving monthly

treatment there is relatively high, at approximately 500. Liver transplants have been named as the only type of treatment for secondary diseases of hepatitis that cannot be carried out in the country.

HIV/AIDS treatment is free and there are no waiting times for patients – anyone who needs treatment will receive it. Only the HIV test must be paid for; at GEL 20 (approx. EUR 9), however, it is unlikely to be unaffordable for patients, as it must be paid for only once. The AIDS Centre is located in Tbilisi, but also has branches in Batumi, Kutaisi, Zugdidi and Sukhumi. HIV was previously a highly taboo subject, but awareness of this disease has now improved. For example, more infected people are now coming to the centre of their own accord and receiving treatment. NGOs are also working in the field of HIV/AIDS, running information campaigns and offering advice.

Drug addiction and the associated consequences are a worrying problem in Georgia. Although access to hard drugs such as heroin has become extremely difficult, owing to strict controls by the police, the use of illegal drugs, particularly of pharmaceutical drugs, is widespread. Treatment is available in state programmes and programmes financed by Global Fund. In the state programme, the patient must pay 40% of the total costs, i.e. GEL 150 (approx. EUR 64) per month. The Global Fund programme is free. Detoxification is also possible in Georgia. The problem lies not so much in the treatment of the addiction itself, but rather in rehabilitation and particularly in the reintegration of (former) addicts into society. Here, NGOs are attempting, with the help of projects, to compensate for the lack of follow-up treatment. Sixteen organisations are active in the field of “drug addiction” in Georgia, providing not only free and anonymous advice, but also projects for training and assistance with setting up small businesses. A state rehabilitation centre is planned.

In psychiatry, regular treatment for mental illnesses is guaranteed and the state will pay the costs in some cases. Most psychiatrists and psychologists treat mental illnesses with medication. The living conditions in psychiatric hospitals are in need of improvement.

In summary, it can be said that almost all diseases can be treated in Georgia. A wide range of medicines are available, both as original products and as generic

drugs. Only psychoactive medicines, such as psychotropic drugs, must be obtained from pharmacies, as there is a risk that the psychoactive substances could be extracted to make illegal drugs. Antibiotics can be obtained without a prescription.

## 6. End notes

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- <sup>i</sup> IOM: Home, <http://www.iomvienna.at/> Access 16/05/2011
- <sup>ii</sup> Interview with Levan Mchedlishvili, Director of the HEPA Clinic, Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, and Maka Asatianai, Product Manager at Roche, on 13/04/2011
- <sup>iii</sup> Interview with Nino Tsereteli, Director of the NGO Tanadgoma (Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health), on 13/04/2011
- <sup>iv</sup> Interview with doctors providing treatment at the Bemoni clinic on 14/04/2011
- <sup>v</sup> Interview with Dr. Lali Sharvadze, head of department at the AIDS Centre (Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center) and Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, on 14/04/2011/Homepage: [http://aidscenter.ge/sakmianoba\\_eng.html](http://aidscenter.ge/sakmianoba_eng.html) Access 16/05/2011
- <sup>vi</sup> Interview with Levan Baramidze, head of the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), and Irakli Gamkrelidze, manager of state substitution treatment and the methadone clinic of the NCDC, on 14/04/2011/Homepage: [http://www.ncdc.ge/W2/Page2\\_en.htm](http://www.ncdc.ge/W2/Page2_en.htm) Access: 17/05/2011
- <sup>vii</sup> IOM – International Organisation of Migration: Country information sheet for Georgia, June 2010
- <sup>viii</sup> IOM – International Organisation of Migration: IRRICO - Return to Georgia, country information, status: 12/11/2009; [http://irrico.belgium.iom.int/images/stories/documents/georgia\\_de.pdf](http://irrico.belgium.iom.int/images/stories/documents/georgia_de.pdf) Access 20/06/2011
- <sup>ix</sup> IOM – International Organisation for Migration: Country information sheet for Georgia, June 2010/ interview with Mary Sheehan, head of IOM Georgia, on 13/04/2011
- <sup>x</sup> Interview with Mary Sheehan, head of IOM Georgia, on 13/04/2011 as part of the FFM in Georgia
- <sup>xi</sup> Interview with Mary Sheehan, head of IOM Georgia, on 13/04/2011 as part of the FFM in Georgia
- <sup>xii</sup> Interview with Levan Mchedlishvili, Director of the HEPA Clinic, Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, and Maka Asatianai, Product Manager at Roche, on 13/04/2011 as part of the FFM in Georgia
- <sup>xiii</sup> All currency units were converted on 27/06/2011 at the current exchange rate, whereby EUR 1 corresponds to approx. GEL 2.4; [http://www.umrechnung24.de/waehrungen/waehrung\\_1224676784.htm](http://www.umrechnung24.de/waehrungen/waehrung_1224676784.htm) Access 27/06/2011
- <sup>xiv</sup> Interview with Levan Mchedlishvili, Director of the HEPA Clinic, Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, and Maka Asatianai, Product Manager at Roche, on 13/04/2011 as part of the FFM in Georgia/interview with Dr. Lali Sharvadze, head of department at the AIDS Centre (Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center) and Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, on 14/04/2011 as part of the FFM in Georgia
- <sup>xv</sup> Interview with Levan Mchedlishvili, Director of the HEPA Clinic, Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, and Maka Asatianai, Product Manager at Roche, on 13/04/2011 as part of the FFM in Georgia
- <sup>xvi</sup> Interview with Levan Mchedlishvili, Director of the HEPA Clinic, Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, and Maka Asatianai, Product Manager at Roche, on 13/04/2011 as part of the FFM in Georgia
- <sup>xvii</sup> The AIDS Centre has branches throughout the country. AIDS Centre: Activities, no date; [http://aidscenter.ge/sakmianoba\\_eng.html](http://aidscenter.ge/sakmianoba_eng.html) Access 20/06/2011
- <sup>xviii</sup> Interview with Dr. Lali Sharvadze, head of department at the AIDS Centre (Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center) and Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, on 14/04/2011 as part of the FFM in Georgia/cf.: AIDS Center: Activities, no date; [http://aidscenter.ge/sakmianoba\\_eng.html](http://aidscenter.ge/sakmianoba_eng.html) Access 20/06/2011
- <sup>xix</sup> Interview with Dr. Lali Sharvadze, head of department at the AIDS Centre (Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center), and Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, on 14/04/2011 as part of the FFM in Georgia
- <sup>xx</sup> IOM – International Organisation for Migration: Country information sheet for Georgia, June 2010/

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interview with Dr. Lali Sharvadze, head of department at the AIDS Centre (Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center), and Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, on 14/04/2011

<sup>xxi</sup> US DOS: Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2010, Georgia, 08/04/2011

<sup>xxii</sup> The Global Fund: Homepage, no date; <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/> Access 27/06/2011

<sup>xxiii</sup> IOM – International Organisation for Migration: Country information sheet for Georgia, June 2010/  
interview with Dr. Lali Sharvadze, head of department at the AIDS Centre (Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center), and Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, on 14/04/2011

<sup>xxiv</sup> Interview with Dr. Lali Sharvadze, head of department at the AIDS Centre (Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center), and Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, on 14/04/2011

<sup>xxv</sup> Interview with Dr. Lali Sharvadze, head of department at the AIDS Centre (Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center), and Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, on 14/04/2011

<sup>xxvi</sup> Interview with Dr. Lali Sharvadze, head of department at the AIDS Centre (Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center), and Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, on 14/04/2011

<sup>xxvii</sup> US DOS: Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2010 Georgia, 08/04/2011

<sup>xxviii</sup> Interview with Nino Tsereteli, Director of the NGO Tanadgoma (Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health), on 13/04/2011

<sup>xxix</sup> Interview with Dr. Lali Sharvadze, head of department at the AIDS Centre (Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center), and Dr. Maia Zhamutashvili, a doctor providing treatment at the HEPA Clinic and the AIDS Centre, on 14/04/2011

<sup>xxx</sup> Interview with Nino Tsereteli, Director of the NGO Tanadgoma (Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health), on 13/04/2011/interview with Levan Baramidze and Irakli Gamkrelidze, heads of the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health and of the methadone clinic, 14/04/2011/cf. also: South Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme National Focal Point: 2009 National Report to the EMCCDA – Georgia drug situation 2009

<sup>xxxi</sup> Interview with Nino Tsereteli, Director of the NGO Tanadgoma (Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health), on 13/04/2011/interview with the head of the methadone centre in Kutaisi on 15/04/2011 as part of the FFM in Georgia/interview with Mary Sheehan, head of IOM Georgia, on 13/04/2011 as part of the FFM in Georgia

<sup>xxxii</sup> Interview with Nino Tsereteli, Director of the NGO Tanadgoma (Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health), on 13/04/2011/interview with the head of the methadone centre in Kutaisi on 15/04/2011

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Interview with the head of the methadone centre in Kutaisi on 15/04/2011

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Interview with Nino Tsereteli, Director of the NGO Tanadgoma (Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health), on 13/04/2011/interview with Mary Sheehan, head of IOM Georgia, on 13/04/2011

<sup>xxxv</sup> Interview with doctors providing treatment at the Bemoni clinic on 14/04/2011

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Interview with the head of the methadone centre in Kutaisi on 15/04/2011

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Interview with the head of the methadone centre in Kutaisi on 15/04/2011

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Interview with Dr. Archil Gedenidze, Managing Director of Medical Prophylactic Centre #1, on 13/04/2011

<sup>xxxix</sup> Interview in the methadone centre in Kutaisi on 15/04/2011/Nana Tabatadze: Treatment Options Georgian Addicts Have, 24/02/2011; <http://nanatabatadze.posterous.com/treatment-options-georgianaddicts-have> Access 21/06/2011

<sup>xl</sup> Interview with Levan Baramidze and Irakli Gamkrelidze, heads of the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health and of the methadone clinic, on 14/04/2011/Nana Tabatadze: Treatment Options Georgian Addicts Have, 24/02/2011; <http://nanatabatadze.posterous.com/treatment-options-georgian-addicts-have> Access 21/06/2011

<sup>xli</sup> Interview with Levan Baramidze and Irakli Gamkrelidze, heads of the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health and of the methadone clinic, on 14/04/2011

<sup>xlii</sup> Interview with Levan Baramidze and Irakli Gamkrelidze, heads of the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health and of the methadone clinic, on 14/04/2011

<sup>xliii</sup> Interview with Nino Tsereteli, Director of the NGO Tanadgoma (Center for Information and

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Counseling on Reproductive Health), on 13/04/2011

<sup>xliv</sup> Nana Tabatadze: Treatment Options Georgian Addicts Have, 24/02/2011;

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<sup>xlv</sup> Interview with the head of the methadone centre in Kutaisi on 15/04/2011

<sup>xlvi</sup> Interview with Levan Baramidze and Irakli Gamkrelidze, heads of the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health and of the methadone clinic, on 14/04/2011

<sup>xlvii</sup> Interview with the head of the methadone centre in Kutaisi on 15/04/2011

<sup>xlviii</sup> Interview with Nino Tsereteli, Director of the NGO Tanadgoma (Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health), on 13/04/2011/interview with Mary Sheehan, head of IOM Georgia, on 13/04/2011

<sup>xlix</sup> Interview with the head of the methadone centre in Kutaisi on 15/04/2011/Nana Tabatadze: Treatment Options Georgian Addicts Have, 24/02/2011;

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<sup>l</sup> Nana Tabatadze: Treatment Options Georgian Addicts Have, 24/02/2011;

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<sup>li</sup> Interview with Nino Tsereteli, Director of the NGO Tanadgoma (Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health), on 13/04/2011

<sup>lii</sup> IOM – International Organisation for Migration: Country information sheet for Georgia, June 2010

<sup>liii</sup> Interview with David Zurabashvili, Director of the Asatiani Research Institute of Psychiatry, on 13/04/2011

<sup>liv</sup> IOM – International Organisation for Migration: Country information sheet for Georgia, June 2010

<sup>lv</sup> Interview with David Zurabashvili, Director of the Asatiani Research Institute of Psychiatry, on 13/04/2011

<sup>lvi</sup> Response to enquiries from IOM Tiflis via email on 27/08/2009

<sup>lvii</sup> Interview with David Zurabashvili, Director of the Asatiani Research Institute of Psychiatry, on 13/04/2011

<sup>lviii</sup> Response to enquiries from IOM Georgia via email on 15/07/2009

<sup>lix</sup> Response to enquiries from IOM Tiflis via email on 20/11/2009

<sup>lx</sup> Response to enquiries from IOM Tiflis via email on 15/07/2009

<sup>lxi</sup> Med COI Answer: Medical Advisors' Office BMA, Immigration and Naturalisation Service, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Netherlands, Request number: GE - 2024 – 2011, 22/05/2011

<sup>lxii</sup> Med COI Answer: Medical Advisors' Office BMA, Immigration and Naturalisation Service, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Netherlands, Request number: GE - 2024 – 2011, 22/05/2011/

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<sup>lxiii</sup> IOM – International Organisation for Migration: Country information sheet for Georgia, June 2010