

## *Policy, Advocacy, and Civil Society Development in Georgia (G-PAC)*

The **East-West Management Institute (EWMI)**, in a strategic partnership with the **Columbia University School of International Public Affairs (SIPA)**, is implementing the **Policy, Advocacy, and Civil Society Development in Georgia (G-PAC)**, a four-year initiative funded by the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**. This program aims to strengthen civil society's role in advocating for and influencing the development and effective implementation of public policy reforms. EWMI will focus on four complementary objectives, which will contribute significantly to the successful achievement of the broader G-PAC goals to:

- Strengthen the advocacy and watchdog roles of civil society organizations (CSOs) as advocates for an empowered citizenry;
- Improve public policy discourse, research and analysis leading to the development of viable policy options which reflect the citizenry's needs to government;
- Enhance the institutional capacity of universities in the areas of public policy, public administration and political science; and
- Build coalitions to develop strong networks of CSOs throughout Georgia and strengthen their connections to media, political parties and constituencies.

G-PAC operates with two interlinked and mutually reinforcing components, which seek to:

**1. Strengthen the civic engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in effective advocacy and watch-dog activities.** Through this strategy of empowering citizenry, EWMI will improve public policy analysis and bolster cohesive networks to garner better access to media, political parties, and community constituencies. Through a partnership with the Think Tank Fund of the Open Society Institute, the EWMI Think Tank Support Program will strengthen the capacity of think tanks and policy-oriented CSOs to develop and present policy options. This component will also strengthen the advocacy and watchdog roles of CSOs through a combination of demand-driven technical assistance and small grants in the Citizens' Advocacy Assistance Program. The Partnership for Change – Networking and Advocacy Program will strengthen CSO networks and broaden connections to media, constituencies, and think tanks in order to enhance advocacy skills. Finally, in cooperation with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), EWMI will improve the enabling environment for the civil society sector.

**2. Establish a Masters in Public Policy and Administration (MPP) Program in collaboration with the Columbia University School of International Public Affairs (SIPA).** This initiative will not only launch an MPP program to cultivate a new generation of well-trained policy professionals, but will

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organizations to build  
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also develop centers of excellence in Tbilisi to provide fundamental research and analysis. The MPP program will serve as a focal point for public policy research, initiation, formation, and discussion of implementation strategies.

To encourage regional campuses to enhance their public policy programs, G-PAC will provide small University Assistance Grants (UAG) which will be open to all universities. UAG will support institutional development of Georgian universities related to public policy programs or/and courses.

In order to provide “hands on” experience in practical public policy for Georgian graduate students, G-PAC will establish an Internship Grant Program that will provide each year up to 25 - 30 paid summer and semester internships for graduate students to work in Georgian think tanks and major CSOs.

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