



Memorandum of Understanding

German-Georgian Partnership in Biosafety and Biosecurity

In December 2013, a project appraisal mission lead by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs went to Georgia to discuss the extension of the ongoing bilateral German-Georgian cooperation to the field of biosecurity. During the mission, the German delegation and the leadership of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) reached consensus over the general nature of a future German-Georgian partnership in the field of biosafety and biosecurity.

This new cooperation will be implemented within the framework of the **German Partnership Program for Excellence in Biological and Health Security**, a global programme initiated by the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The goals of this program are aligned to the *G8 Biological Security Deliverables* agreed to internationally.

The *National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)* in Tbilisi is the central institute of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA) for public health protection in Georgia. The *Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology (BwIM)* is the competence centre for biological medical defence and is the leading German implementing partner for this project.

Area of cooperation 1: Joint research

Both parties agree on joint research on viral and bacterial pathogens. The priority area of joint research will be on viral and bacterial diseases, including but not limited to Especially Dangerous Pathogens (EDP). Joint research projects might also include the exchange of human, animal, bacteria or virus samples between both parties.

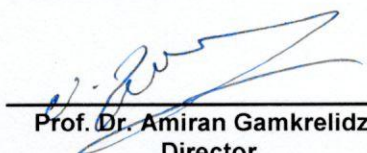
Area of cooperation 2: Training of junior scientists

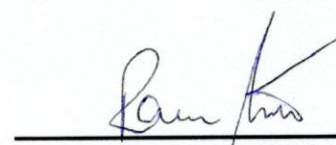
Both parties agree to cooperate in the training of young Georgian scientist with the aim of strengthening Georgian scientific and laboratory capacity in Georgia in general and at the NCDC in particular. Young researchers will to be trained by German experts within the facilities of the NCDC – G. Lugar Center for Public Health Research and at the BwIM in Germany. The learning goal is to improve their laboratory practice and knowledge on performing basic and advanced scientific principles in biosafety level 2 and biosafety level 3 lab environments.

Area of cooperation 3: Know-how transfer and capacity development

Both parties agree to engage in the exchange of know-how for the development, establishment and validation of diagnostic assays, lab quality management according to ISO EN 15189 and ISO EN 17025 and European biosafety and biosecurity regulations.

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