

## TRACECA IDEA PROJECT (TRANSPORT INTEROPERABILITY AND DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE EU, CAUCASUS AND ASIAN)

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**CLIENT:** *European Commission, DG EuropeAid*

**YEARS:** *2009 – ongoing*

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

#### *Objectives of the project*

The **IDEA** (*Transport Interoperability and Dialogue between the EU, Caucasus and Asian*) project is funded by the European Commission (EC) within the framework of the **TRACECA Programme** (*TRAnsport Corridor Europe Caucasus Asia*).

The TRACECA Programme, originally established in 1993 under the EU TACIS programme, currently gathers 13 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan), and is committed in promoting the economic and political development of the Black Sea Region, Caucasus and Central Asia through improvement of the international transport links.

The Programme works through an **Intergovernmental Commission (ICG)**, set up in 2000 with the overall purpose of monitoring the implementation of the Programme. The ICG is supported by a **Permanent Secretariat**, established in Baku as an executive body of the ICG.

Officially started in 2009, the IDEA project has a duration of three years and aims at delivering a sustainable, efficient and integrated multi-modal transport system in the TRACECA region.

Additionally, specific Project purposes are as follows:

- **strengthening** the political and transport dialogue mechanisms between the EC, the TRACECA beneficiary countries, the other project stakeholders and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs);
- **supporting** the implementation of the ICG Long-Term Strategy until 2015 and related Ac-

tion Plans, through assistance to TRACECA Permanent Secretariat

- **identifying** a short-list of six/eight project, for which a technical and a financial feasibility assessment will be undertaken. Based on the outcomes of such assessment, the financing support of the IFIs will be evaluated;
- **contributing** to the development and agreement of TRACECA regional investment plans for transport infrastructure in support of project identification, project definition and appraisal. In this respect, at least two projects will be selected for funding from the IFIs as well as private actors through PPPs schemes.

#### *Current priorities*

The project inception phase has been characterised by a number of stakeholders' visits in the TRACECA beneficiary countries, which have enabled the IDEA team to understand the specific issues at stake, and to exchange with most IFIs on site information about individual programmes and projects both ongoing and in the planning stage.

More specifically, early significant achievements have been obtained with regard to the analysis and development of the GIS transport database and the traffic model, as well as the prioritisation of investment projects.

The latter is particular worthy of noticing, since it has been methodised under strong contribution of the TRACECA National Secretaries, in order to give the TRACECA member countries ownership of the process and consequently of the outcome of project prioritisation.

Regional meetings are on the way to push ahead such prioritisation, with the goal of reaching a mutual agreement on the individual transport projects to be in the pipeline for selection by IFIs. This will also

pave the way for producing pre-feasibility studies in preparation of the TRACECA Investors (Finance) Forum to be held in October 2010.

Finally, and in line with its role of “umbrella” project, the IDEA project has also taken care of coordination and dialogue with the already existing TRACECA-Technical assistance projects.

**Project Team**

The Project Team is composed by three key experts, who cover the following expertises and geographical areas:

- Transport Policy Expert and Team Leader (Regional coordinator for South Caucasus and Turkey);
- Transport Project Development Expert (Regional coordinator for South-Eastern Europe);
- Financial and PPP Expert (Regional coordinator for Central Asia).

These key experts are supported by a pool of highly qualified international and local experts, which im-

plement specific project activities on the various fields of expertise, as for instance: Air transport; Road transport; Rail transport; Maritime transport; Logistics; Traffic Planning, transport statistics, transport economics; Investment appraisal; Financial modelling; Project and infrastructure financing and PPP; EU Legislation knowledge, amongst others.

**Local offices**

The main premises for the Project Team is located in Baku (Azerbaijan).

**The Consortium**

TRT is the project coordinator and is responsible for (i) the overall project management, and (ii) the development of specific activities as foreseen in the various results.

Project partners are: Alfen Consult (Germany); Dornier Consulting (Germany) and PTV (Germany).

*TRACECA area and TRACECA transport networks*

