



SMALL STATES NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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8th February 2010

DEVELOPING STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR THE COMPETITION COMMISSION OF THE GAMBIA

Summary Progress Report

Project Name: **Developing Strategic Directions for the Competition Commission of the Gambia**
Project Ref No: **TP GMB 01**
Beneficiary State: **The Gambia**
Beneficiary Institution: **Gambia Competition Commission**
Service Provider: **Cyprus Institute for Mediterranean, European and International Studies (KIMEDE)**

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Main objective of the project was to assist the Government of the Gambia in developing strategic directions with regard to the operation of the Competition Commission and with regard to competition law and policy in the Gambia.

Other Objectives were:

- To train public sector officials in competition law and policy.
- To provide advocacy with regard to competition among Gambian stakeholders, including consumers and the business community.
- To identify competition constraints in a small jurisdiction as is the case of the Gambia.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

- June 2009: Professor Andreas Antoniou, was engaged as Twinning Adviser by the Service Provider (KIMEDE) in consultation with the Cyprus Commission for the Protection of Competition. Professor Antoniou is an expert in in competition policy and institutional framework.
- The tasks of Professor Antoniou were to visit the Gambia to assess the readiness of the government of the Gambia with regard to effective competition law and policy, including institutional aspects, and to propose an overarching strategic framework in this regard. He was expected to consult with stakeholders from the Gambia in this regard, and to write a technical report based on his findings. Professor Antoniou was also charged with organizing a training programme for three members of the Gambia Competition Commission.
- 30 July – 6 August 2009: Professor Antoniou visited the Gambia to carry out the tasks assigned to him.
- 4-10 October 2009:- Three senior officials from the Gambia Competition Commission, namely, Mr Omar Ousman Jobe (Commissioner), Mr Alhaji Tsa Njie (Chairman), and Mrs Janinaba Bah-Sambou (Executive Secretary) visited Cyprus and Malta to have first hand experience as to how the Competition authorities in these small states are organised and operate. They also received training on major issues associated with competition law and policy. The first session of the training was held in Cyprus between 4 and 6 October 2009 and was coordinated by Professor

Antoniou. The second session of the training was held in Malta between 8 and 9 October 2009, and was coordinated by Mr Marcel Pizzuto, who is an expert in competition law and policy.

- 20 December 2010: Professor Andreas Antoniou submitted to the SSNED the first draft of the Technical report, in consultation with the Government of the Gambia.
- 31 January 2010: The Technical report was reviewed by an independent expert and Professor Antoniou accepted the proposed minor revisions.
- 10 February 2010: The Technical report was submitted to the Government of the Gambia.
- Three administrative reports, namely an inception report, a mid-term report and a final report were prepared by the project leader of the beneficiary institution, and be submitted to the SSNED.

OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT

BENEFICIARY STATE

Beneficiary State Ministry Focal Point: Ms Sohna Sowe,

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Employment , Tel: (220) 4228392; Fax: (220) 4227756; Email: sohnasowe@hotmail.com

Responsibilities: To oversee the project and to ensure that the Ministry is kept informed of developments regarding the project

Project Leader in the Beneficiary State (BS-PL) : Ms Jainaba Bah Sambou.

Executive Secretary, Gambia Competition Commission

No. 36 Kotu East (KMC); Tel: (220) 4466789; Fax: (220) 4466791; Email: jaibsambou@yahoo.co.uk

Responsibilities: To represent the SSNED in the Beneficiary State, and is answerable to the SSNED regarding the progress of the project; to check and vet all claims for payments from the beneficiary institution; to supply the administrative reports relating to the project.

Project Manager in the Beneficiary State (BS-PM): Mr Alhaji Tamu A Njie

Private Consultant to the Gambia Competition Commission

Tel: (220) 9902724; Email: sanjubarry@gmail.com

Responsibilities: to manage the project on the ground and to work closely with the visiting TA; to liaise with all persons involved in the running of the project; and to take care of logistics and publicity relating to the project.

SERVICE PROVIDER

Cyprus Institute for Mediterranean, European and International Studies (KIMEDE)

in collaboration with the Cyprus Commission for the Protection of Competition (CPC)

Project Leader of the Service Provider SP-PL): Prof. Costas Melakopides

Cyprus Institute for Mediterranean, European and International Studies (KIMEDE)

P.O. Box 25091, Nicosia, CY 1306, Cyprus, Tel: (357) 9667 1363 or (357) 22441860; Fax: (357)22894559; Email: comel@ucy.ac.cy

Responsibilities: To liaise with the Project Leader in The Gambia; to collaborate with the Twinning Advisor to draw up a programme for the 1 week training visit by 2 Gambian public officials in Cyprus and Malta; to issue an invitation for the public officials for the mentioned training; to help in arranging accommodation and logistics for the visit of the trainees; to liaise with the BS-PL and BS-PM in publicising the project in Cyprus and the Gambia.

The Twinning Advisor (TA): Professor Andreas Antoniou

Vice-President, Cyprus Institute for Mediterranean, European and International Studies (KIMEDE), P.O. Box 25091, Nicosia, CY 1306, Cyprus. Tel: (357) 96671363 or (357) 22441860 ; Fax: (357)22894559; Email: antoniouan@yahoo.co.uk

Responsibilities: To visit The Gambia to assess the readiness of the government of the Gambia with regard to effective competition law and policy, including institutional aspects; to propose an overarching strategic framework in this regard; to write and submit to the SSNED a Technical report on his findings, in consultation with the Government of the Gambia; to collaborate with the SP-PL in drawing up a programme of training for the three officials from the Gambia.