



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Intellectual Property Rights in Georgia Strengthened by EU Support.**

EU and Georgian stakeholders review three and a half years of cooperation to strengthen intellectual property rights in Georgia.

The EU-Georgia Intellectual Property Project (EUGIPP) will come to an end in June 2023. On that occasion, on 4 May 2023, with EU support, the EUGIPP, in cooperation with the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia (Sakpatenti), a closure event took place in Tbilisi at the Marriott Hotel.

Mr Soso Giorgadze, Chairperson of Sakpatenti; Ms Ketevan Khutsishvili, Programme Manager for Rural Development, Civil Protection and Crisis Management of the Delegation of the EU to Georgia; Ms Mariam Lashkhi, First Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Parliament of Georgia; and Mr Sandris Laganovskis, Director of the Institutional and Cooperation Service of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) opened the event and delivered welcome speeches. Mr Christian Archambeau, Executive Director of the EUIPO addressed the audience through a video link.

Enforcement authorities, judges, patent attorneys, school principals, representatives of Sakpatenti, and experts who collaborated with the project, together with members of the EUIPO, participated in the event to discuss achievements, assess results, and focus on future opportunities for cooperation.

This EU-funded project, implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), has been working closely with stakeholders on diverse lines of action to achieve the following results:

- Strengthen intellectual property (IP) institutions and networks by supporting more efficient and user-friendly IP systems.
- Support the modernisation, transparency and fair implementation of IP enforcement policies in Georgia.
- Increase awareness of the benefits of a comprehensive IP system among different segments of the Georgian public.

“The Association Agreement concluded between Georgia and the European Union envisages as an important element, the protection of intellectual property rights as well as boosting innovation both in Georgia and the European Union”, said Ms Ketevan Khutsishvili.

“The EUGIPP achievements were made possible by the combined efforts of the EUIPO and the extraordinary support of Sakpatenti. The implementation of this project is the confirmation of the excellent collaboration existing between our two organisations” added Sandris Laganovskis.

The EUGIPP actively supported Sakpatenti in achieving notable milestones, including: Developing examination guidelines for trade marks and designs that align with the European Union Intellectual



Property Network's practice, improving registration services, enhancing technical capacity, and promoting consistency in IP decisions.

- Contributing to aligning Georgian legislation with the EU's, particularly in the fields of trademarks, designs, copyright, and enforcement.
- Establishing a network of enforcement authorities and fostering collaboration with Georgian judges led to the creation of Georgia's first series of IP enforcement guidelines.
- Modernising administrative structures, including obtaining the ISO 9001:2015 certification, overhauling the HR system, drafting a new statute for the Chamber of Appeals, and developing a new IP pre-diagnostic support service for SMEs.
- Focusing on awareness and education through engaging hundreds of teachers and students across Georgia on IP matters.

During the project implementation, the EUGIPP, with the support of the European Union, organised over 60 capacity development activities such as training courses, events and seminars addressed to IP practitioners, enforcers, the academic community and the general public. More than 1000 participants attended these events, and more than 300 awareness products from learning materials, webinars, and e-learning courses were produced.

## BACKGROUND

*EUGIPP was funded by the European Union and implemented in Georgia to contribute to an adequate and effective level of protection and enforcement of IP rights according to commitments of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). It had a duration of 42 months starting from 1 January 2020.*

## CONTACT INFO

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