

The Statute of the National Drug Observatory

Article 1. General provisions

1. The National Drug Observatory (hereinafter - NDO) is established with the aim of collection and analyzing of the information on the unlawful consumption of the substances subjected to the special control within the country, as well as for the purpose of implementation of evidence based scientific-practical methodologies.
2. While conducting its work, NDO shall be guided by the Constitution of Georgia, international treaties and agreements of Georgia and appropriate legislative acts and normative regulations of Georgia.
3. The composition, structure, authority and working procedure of NDO is defined by the present Statute.

Article 2. The structure and working procedure of the National Drug Observatory

1. NDO is established in accordance with the article 14, paragraph 5th and 7th of the Law of Georgia on “Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Precursors and Narcological Assistance”, within the framework of Interagency Coordinating Council for Combating Drug Abuse (hereinafter - Interagency Council) on the ground of the decision taken by the Interagency Council.
2. NDO is headed by the Secretary of the Interagency Council that also serves as a head of Public International Law Department of Ministry of Justice of Georgia.
3. The structural units of NDO shall include the Data Research Division and the Consulting Division.
4. The organization and technical assistance to NDO is ensured by the Secretariat of the Interagency Council, which is composed of employees of Public International Law Department of Ministry of Justice of Georgia.
5. Upon the invitation of the head of NDO, representatives of member/non-member states agencies, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and experts of the relevant fields may participate in the activities of NDO.

Article 3. The functions and objectives of the National Drug Observatory

1. NDO ensures the collection and assessment of the data/information on the drug situation in the country, including on consumption and/or unlawful dissemination of the substances subjected to special control, together with establishing the evidence-based scientific-practical methodologies.
2. In pursuit of the purposes stated in paragraph 1 of this article, NDO shall ensure:
 - a) Defining the epidemiological and statistical indicators for the consumption of the substances subjected to special control, in compliance with the key indicators approved by the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (hereinafter- EMCDDA), and evaluating medical and social harm caused by unlawful consumption of such substances;
 - b) Preparing special and annual reports on drug situation in the country and submitting them to the Interagency Council;
 - c) Exchange of information and reporting to the relevant International organizations, including EMCDDA;
 - d) Implementation of other essential functions in order to achieve the purpose provided in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 4. Accountability and confidentiality

1. NDO is accountable to the Interagency Council.
2. Information processed within NDO is confidential and it is prohibited to disclose the content to a third party until the information is officially published by NDO itself.

Article 5. Data Research Division

1. The principal task of the Data Research Division shall be collecting and processing the data/information on the drug situation in the country in compliance with the International standards. Also, Data Research Division prepares special and annual reports of NDO.

2. The Data Research Division shall cooperate with the law–enforcement agencies, public health sector and other state agencies working on the thematic issues, together with service provider governmental and non-governmental organizations and/or private institutions.

3. The Data Research Division is composed of five staff members of following or related fields: prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, harm reduction, supply reduction, addictology, sociology or epidemiology.

4. Employees of the Data Research Division are selected by competition in accordance with the Law of Georgia on Public Service.

Article 6. Consulting Division

1. The principal task of the Consulting Division is to provide thematic assistance to the Data Research Division and to share opinions and professional advice on analytical documents and reports prepared by the Data Research Division.

2. The Consulting Division, on the basis of its own initiative, or upon the request of the head of NDO, meets at least twice a year.

3. The Consulting Division is composed of 6 representatives of the following state agencies:

- a) The Ministry of Justice of Georgia;
- b) The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;
- c) The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia;
- d) The Ministry of Education, Science, Sport and Culture of Georgia;
- e) The General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia;
- f) The Special Penitentiary Service.

4. The agencies mentioned in paragraph 3 of this Article nominate their representative for two years term, who have the working experience and expertise on the drug related issues. The decision on the replacement of a member of the Consulting Division shall be made by the State agency itself, which shall be notified to the Interagency Council in written form.

5. Upon the invitation of the head of NDO, 5 experts of the drug prevention, treatment-rehabilitation, harm reduction, supply reduction, addiction or related fields, participate in the activities/work of Consulting Division.