

Report on the 8th IAP Eastern European and Central Asian Regional Conference

June 26-28, 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia

The Office of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia was honoured to host the 8th IAP Eastern European and Central Asian Regional Conference in the period of June 26-28, 2017. This was a significant occasion for Georgia and the International Association of Prosecutors. More than 120 participants from 30 countries – representing Georgia, the USA, Canada, Europe, United Kingdom and the continents of Asia and Africa gathered to share best practices in investigating and prosecuting cybercrime and facilitating international cooperation for effective asset recovery.

The Chief Prosecutor of Georgia Irakli Shotadze, the Secretary General of the IAP Han Moraal and the Chairperson of the Supreme Court of Georgia Nino Gvenetadze, in their opening speeches set the tone for the conference. They gave an overview of the challenges facing the authorities in 21st century and highlighted the importance of international cooperation to ensure effective administration of justice worldwide. They stressed the need to strengthen collaboration in asset recovery and cybercrime. Also the regional team leader of the Council of Europe Mr. Giorgi Jokhadze and resident legal advisor from the US Department of Justice Mr. Michael Grant made significant contributions.

The plenary sessions were insightful, providing information on best practices of asset freezing and confiscation in e-currency; jurisdictional issues related to asset recovery; best asset sharing and management. They also covered themes of transnational cooperation in evidence sharing concerning the proceeds of crime and international asset tracing possibilities outside the formal MLA requests.

Participants discussed the practical and legal challenges of cybercrime and how to tackle them. There were also presentations focusing on the use of open sources in criminal proceedings; admissibility of evidence collected; online money laundering typologies; and crimes involving e-currency (e-money, Bit coin) transactions. Furthermore, the plenaries covered the issues related to prosecuting crimes in on the darknet; securing digital evidence in partnership between public-private; and international cooperation against cybercrime. The conference was in all aspects a success.

The participants were also honored with an exceptional mix of social programs indigenous to Georgia, including the welcome reception hosted at Funicular Restaurant, Tbilisi, the visit to the historical sights of fascinating old capital city Mtskheta, and the visit to the National Museum of Georgia.

Best wishes from Georgia- country of friendship and immeasurable hospitality!

Giorgi Gogadze

Deputy Chief Prosecutor of Georgia.