



This Project is funded by
the European Union



Implemented by the RCT/EMPATHY

The International Psycho - Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Violence and Pronounced Stress Impact - EMPATHY

Caucasian Ani - Torture Network and Fight Impunity

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Brief History of the Organization

The RCT/EMPATHY is health and legal experts professional organization; founded in Tbilisi, Georgia in 1996. Since 2002 accredited at the IRCT

General Context

The whole population living in Georgia is amount 4, 5 million.

Georgia is low income Country with developing economy and reforms of democratization.

However the War Conflicts and political tension situation between Russian Federation and Georgia since 1992 - 1993 creates horrible problems for independency and democratization of Georgia.

International Commitments of Georgia

- ▶ Georgia is the post soviet Country that restored independence in 1991.
- ▶ Georgia acceded to the UN Convention Against Torture ...on 22 September 1994 but, unfortunately, the relevant changes have not fully been made in the national legislation, bearing heavily on the efforts to fight torture.
- ▶ In 1999 Georgia became the member state of the Council of Europe and accepted all relevant documents and Conventions, among them European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms – Article 3: Prohibition of Torture (Rome, 4 November 1950); European Convention on Prevention of Torture and Inhumane, Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Turine, 18.10.1961);
- ▶ In year 2005 Georgia ratified the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture that enter into force in June 22, 2006.
- ▶ In year 2014 the Association Agreement with European Union was signed.

General Description of the Situation

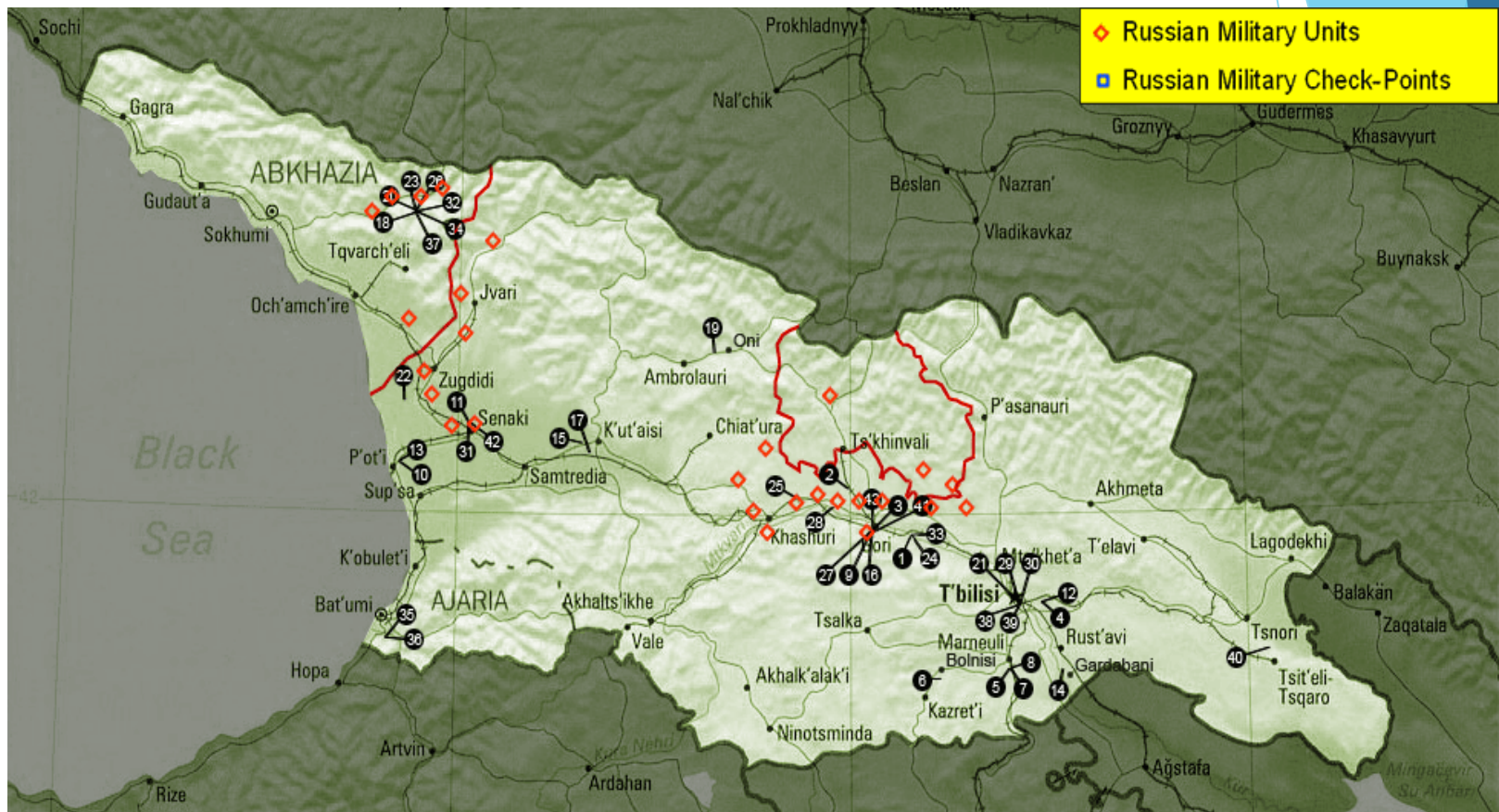
- ▶ In 1993 – 1998, 2008 after the Russian military aggression more than 500000 civilians, 1/9 of population of Georgia became IDPs or refugees, victims of ethnic cleansing and about 20 % of territories of Georgia still are occupied by the Russian forces

General Description of the Situation

- ▶ Consequence of Russian - Georgian War more than 150 000 civilians from South Ossetia became victims of ethnic cleansing and for nowadays are living in the temporary living villages out of occupied territory
- ▶ On the other hand civilians living in the nearest villages of occupied territory still are under threat of kidnapping, creeping aggression followed by changing the so called borders, accordingly their gardens and farms became occupied too
- ▶ Population living in the military conflict zone in Abkhazia, about 60 000 still are under discrimination, ill - treatment, in unsecured environment without any rule of law and protection

Georgian territories attacked by Russian in 2008

www.mod.gov.ge



Mission

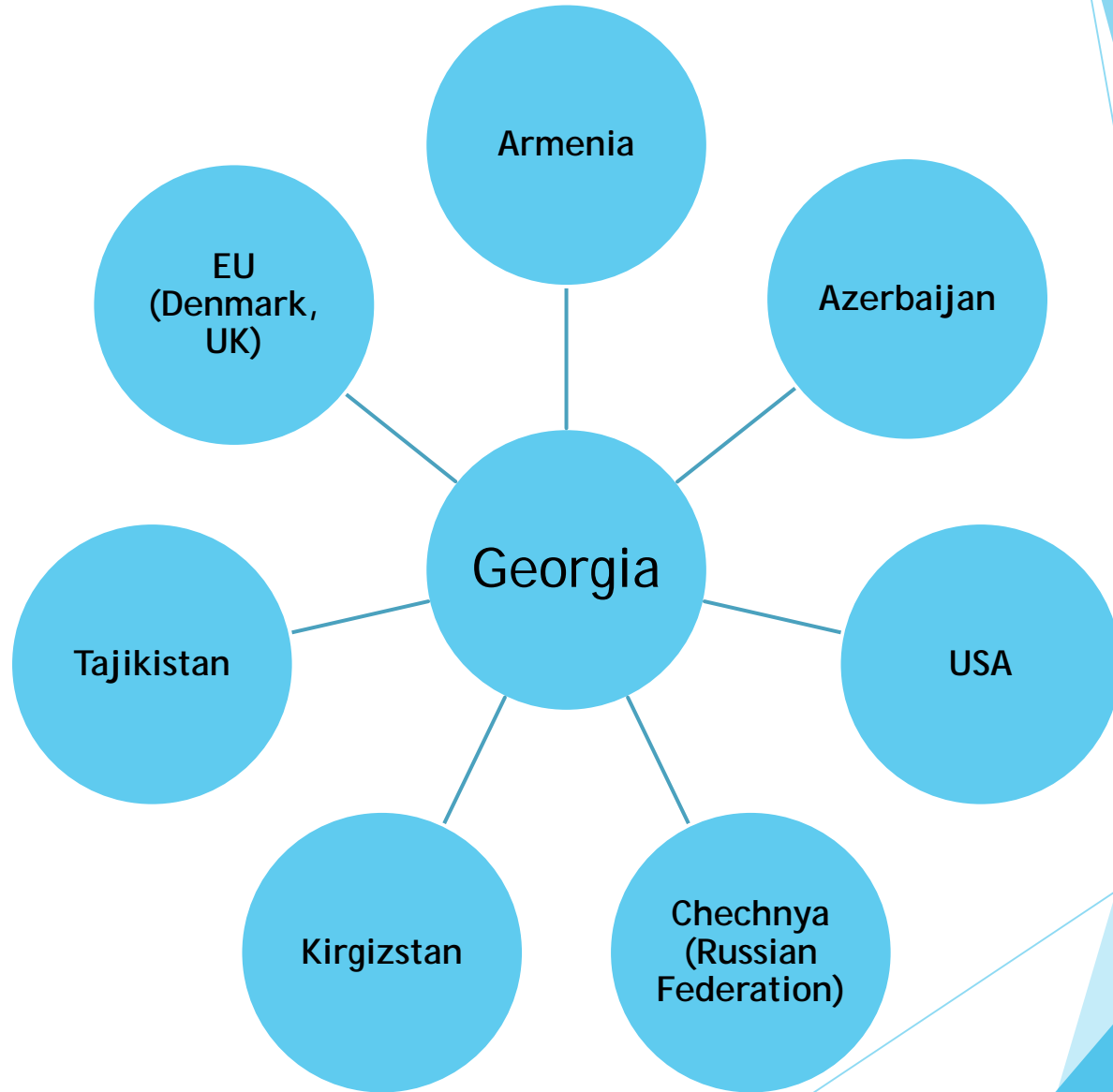
The main mission of the organization is to support victims of torture and ill treatment, and fight against impunity, as well as to implement international standards on prevention of torture.

Centre operates on national and regional level, involves also in international projects.

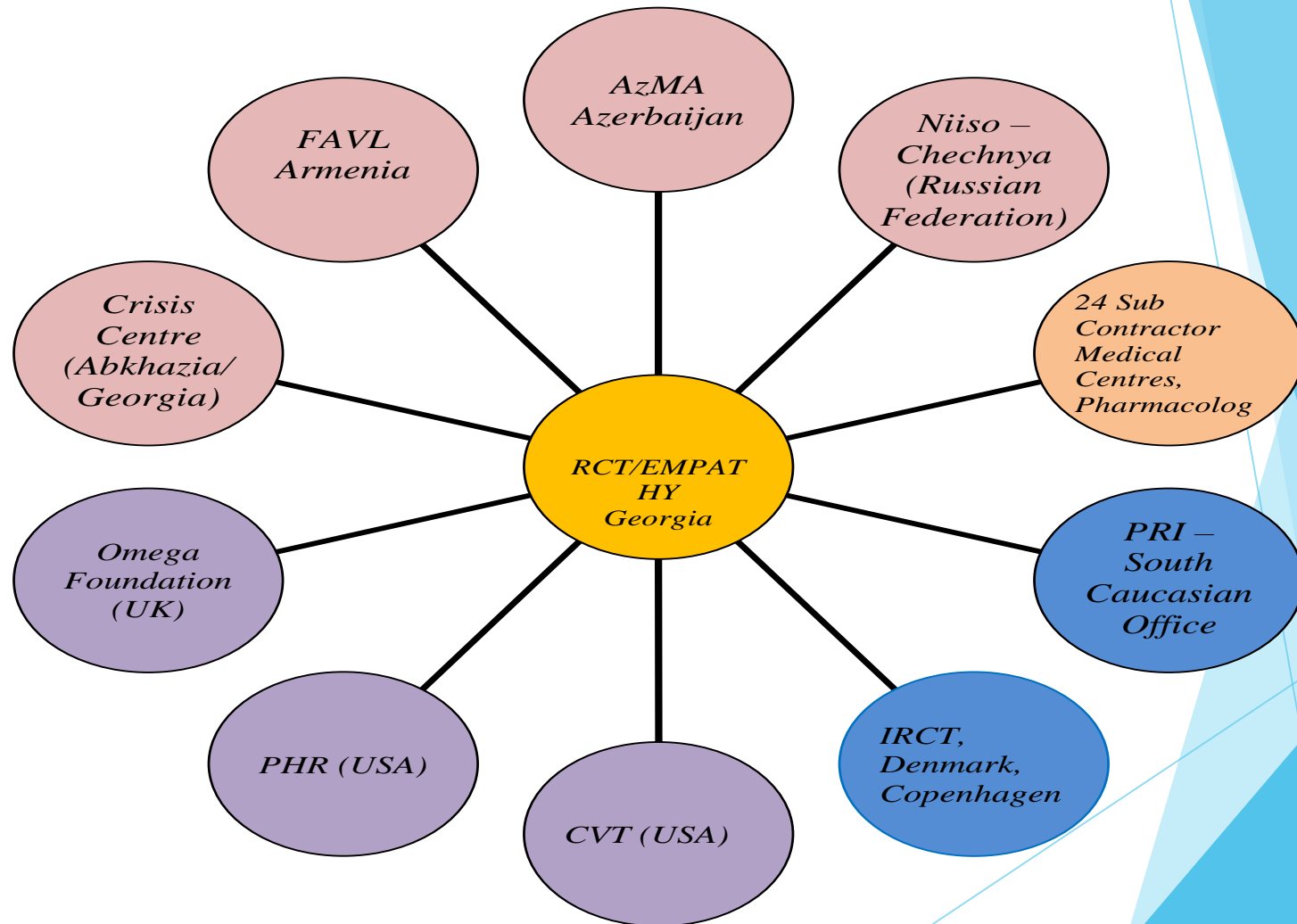
Overall Objectives are

- ▶ to create a sound foundation for a non-governmental, region-wide Caucasian Anti-Torture Network focusing on fighting Impunity through strengthening and developing links between
- ▶ comprehensive multi-disciplinary rehabilitation services,
- ▶ prevention and
- ▶ accountability with
- ▶ strong advocacy and communication strategies.

Countries involved in the Action



Partners, associates and sub contractors and other agencies:



- ▶ **Sub Contractors**
- ▶ **About 24 Health Centres: Diagnostic and In patient treatment (Hospitals), as well as Forensic medical Expertise Centre and Pharmacology Firms.**
- ▶ **Total Number Staff of the Project 38 Persons; Involved more then 200 doctors and legal experts**

Staff of the Empathy

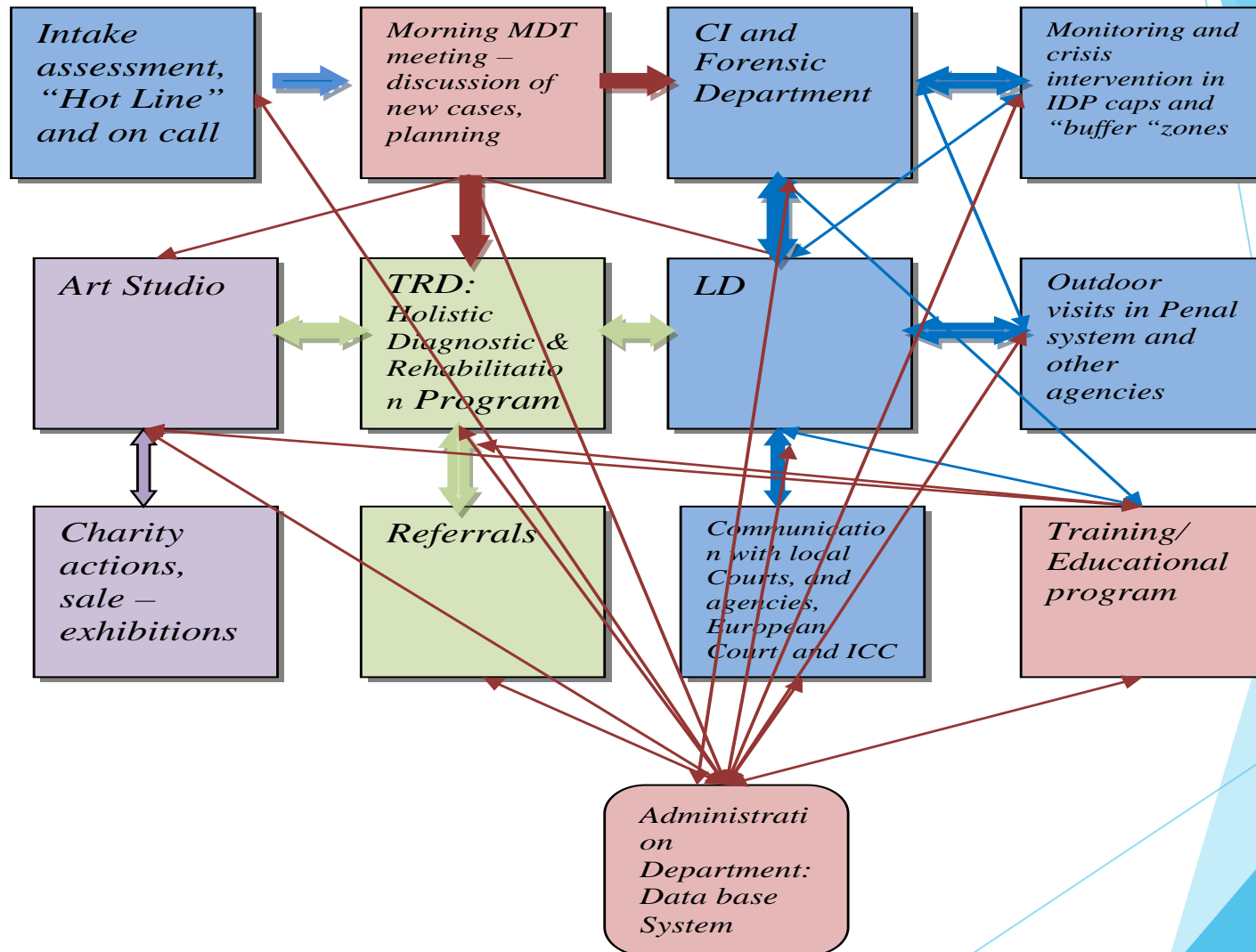


Target Group

- ▶ The Target groups are the torture victims according to the UN CAT Article 1 and 16, European Convention of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms: Article 3 and 13, and victims of the violation of international humanitarian law, including family members and second generation.
- ▶ Special attention has been paid to women and children who have experienced sexual abuse, captivity, torture, domestic violence, slave labour experience and trafficking within the military conflict regions.
- ▶ Specific attention has been paid to detainees, prisoners and former prisoners who have experienced torture, and prisoners with mental problems, especially women and juveniles.
- ▶ The health and legal professionals from the NGO and State sectors, human rights activists and journalists were included in the target group for the training education programme.

Average clients per year are 500 persons.

Operational Departments of the RCT/EMPATHY



Main Activities of the RCT/EMPATHY

- ▶ Covered Multi faced Rehabilitation activities , including: Medical, mental/psychological, Social and legal assistance
- ▶ Torture Prevention activities: Including the Forensic medical/Psychological evaluation and expertise according to IP, Special Training Programme for different target groups, activities focused on implementation of standards in Educational Programmes of academic institutions; PR campaigns and efforts on implementation of UN articles, as well as implementation of the WMA last resolution and NPM activities

Services

- ▶ Medical
- ▶ Psychiatric
- ▶ Psychotherapy (Individual, Group and Family), using the CBT and analytical therapies
- ▶ Art Therapy and art work
- ▶ Educational therapy
- ▶ Physiotherapy, Laser therapy and Acupuncture
- ▶ Counselling
- ▶ Community Interventions

Laser Therapy Session



Services

- ▶ Referrals
- ▶ Financial assistance (support for travel and accommodation for out patient type treatment for VT)
- ▶ Social welfare
- ▶ family - based treatment
- ▶ Psychological
- ▶ Legal Assistance and Client advocacy at all levels National, Regional and International

Referral Program



Services

- ▶ Centre is providing independent forensic expertise, medical and psychiatric/psychological, in accordance with Istanbul Protocol.
- ▶ “Hot Line” - for immediate response and crisis intervention.
- ▶ Training - educational and research programme

Main Results of years 2013 – 2016

- ▶ During the implementation period 2013 – 2016 the Caucasian Anti - Torture Network was established in Georgia. The multi-disciplinary services for victims of torture were strengthened in Georgia, including Abkhazia, as well as in Armenia and Chechnya, activities on prevention and accountability were increased in whole indicated region, including Azerbaijan; Strong communication and advocacy strategy were developed between networking partners. The action linked to the other torture related projects in Central Asian Region with developing the networking with international partners involved in the implementation of this action. At the micro level: more than 2000 persons - victims of torture and ill - treatment and their family members received adequate multi services, focused on medical, mental/psychological, social and legal assistance. T n 225 health professionals, legal experts and journalists from 6 countries of Caucasus, Central Asia and Russian Federation (Chechnya) were trained on effective documentation of cases of torture and on holistic approach in rehabilitation of the victims, 30 persons from them became trainer/experts as well.

Art Work in Empathy's Art Studio



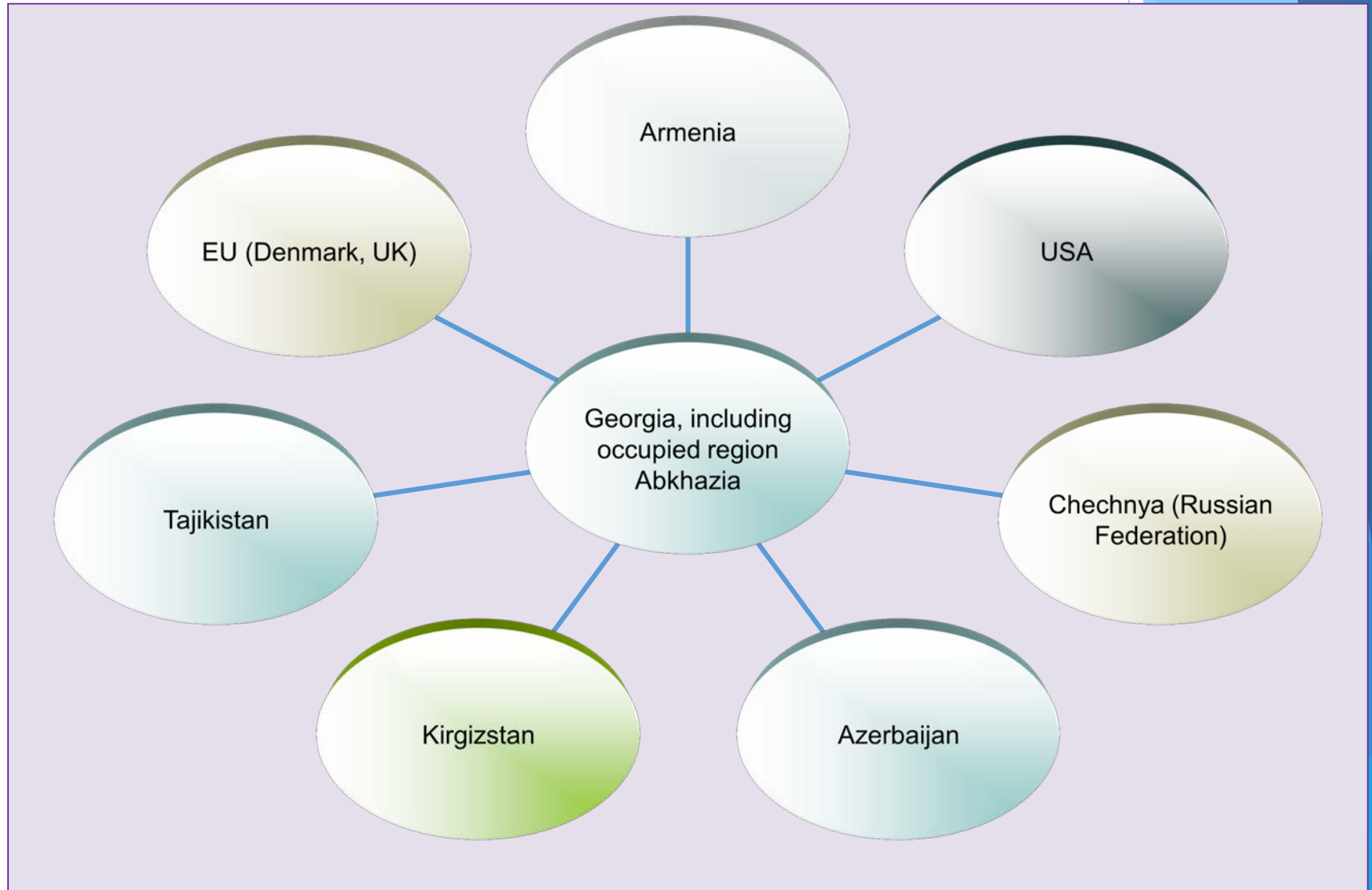
Charity Actions



Training Programme

- ▶ Includes: National, Regional and Trans - Regional Training sessions for health professionals and legal experts, for MoJ and NPM etc from Caucasian Region and Central Asia, on following topics:
- ▶ Istanbul Protocol
- ▶ Outcomes of Torture and multi disciplinary rehabilitation
- ▶ Strategic Litigation in European Court of Human Rights and in ICC
- ▶ Prevention of Vicarious Trauma and Burnt Out etc
- ▶ Centre also involved in preparation of Syllabuses for students and residents of medical university
- ▶ Involved in Academic Educational Programs of Medical University and Ministry of Corrections Training Centre

Countries and Regional Involved in TP



Training in Empathy 2015



Training at MoJ TC for Crime Prevention Centre



IP Training in Erevan 2015



Trans - Regional IP Training in Tbilisi 2015



Para - Military Conflict Zone Training in Zugdidi



Reporting /Publication/Participation

- ▶ National Level for e.g. for Ombudsman Parliamentary Reports, NPM, the Special Report elaborated on Prison Health Care and The international standards in 2013 Published
- ▶ UPR Report submitted in 2010
- ▶ Annual Reporting to the EU etc
- ▶ Presentations at the International Conferences
- ▶ PR Actions
- ▶ Awareness campaigns - June 26 Actions.

Conference



Press - Conference



Strategic Litigations

- ▶ N 35 cases submitted to the European Court of Human Rights
- ▶ Decisions were made on 6 cases in years 2014 - 2015:
- ▶ Mzekalishvili v. Georgia
- ▶ Tabagari v. Georgia
- ▶ Nachkebia v. Georgia
- ▶ Mikiashvili v. Georgia
- ▶ Kavteladze v. Georgia
- ▶ 93 cases submitted to ICC

Court Session



ICC Started Investigation

- ▶ In October 13, 2015 the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, requested judges to authorise and open an investigation into the Situation in Georgia related to the Russian - Georgian War 2008 that clearly demonstrates the importance of the problem that is addressed by our study. In the end of 2015 the permission was given from Judges Office for Investigation of war crimes.





ICC



Partners and Donors involved in Training Program and Capacity Building



Charity Actions



Thank You for Attention

