



REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 2019  
ACTION PLAN OF THE STATE STRATEGY  
FOR CIVIC EQUALITY AND INTEGRATION

2019

Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality  
State Inter-Agency Commission



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# REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 2019 ACTION PLAN OF THE STATE STRATEGY FOR CIVIC EQUALITY AND INTEGRATION

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**Office of the State Minister of Georgia  
for Reconciliation and Civic Equality**

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## Introduction

Georgia is a multi-ethnic country where the representatives of ethnic minorities (apart from Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/ South Ossetia) make up 13.2% of the country's population. The main priority of the Georgian government is the protection of the identity of ethnic minorities residing in Georgia and supporting the process of their civic integration. The key instrument of the policy of civic integration is the “*State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and Action Plan for 2015-2020*”. The strategy is based on the approach “*More diversity, more integration*” and is aimed at ensuring political and civic participation; providing equal social and economic conditions and opportunities for ethnic minority representatives; increasing the access to high quality education and improving the knowledge of the state language ; encouraging cultural diversity and its promotion. The Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality coordinates the elaboration, implementation and accountability of the “State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and its Action Plan”.

Specific activities, programs, and projects envisaged by the Strategy were implemented during 2019.

The document, which has been prepared with the coordination of the Office of the State Minister reflects the information about the implemented activities of 2019 Action Plan (January-December) within the scope of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration.

### Strategic goal 1

#### Equal and Full Participation in Civic and Political Life

The above strategic goal includes the following priorities:

- Improving the involvement of ethnic minority representatives at central, as well as local levels;
- Participation of ethnic minority representatives in the decision-making process;
- Ensuring full and equal participation of ethnic minority representatives in such political processes as elections;
- Ensuring civic engagement by improving mechanisms of accessibility to information and media, social services, state administration and law-enforcement bodies ;
- Supporting small and vulnerable ethnic minorities;
- Provide support to ethnic minority women's rights and their empowerment.

## **Interim goal -1.1. Supporting small and vulnerable ethnic minorities**

### **Objective – 1.1.1 Developing and implementing policy for small and vulnerable ethnic minorities**

The objective covers the following directions:

- Protection of the identity of small ethnic groups;
- Ensuring registration procedures for the Roma population;
- Involvement of Roma youth in the educational system.

Protection of rights of **small** and vulnerable ethnic minority groups and support of their full integration is the most significant objective of civic integration which is being implemented by line ministries.

During 2019, certain public schools continued providing classes to teach their native languages (Ossetian, Chechen, Avar, Udi and Assyrian) to small ethnic minority representatives.

Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia has implemented the following activities with the purpose of involvement of the Roma population in the educational system:

- ❖ Adolescents from Roma community have been actively participating in an inter-agency and inter-sectorial working meetings organized for enhancing their well-being;
- ❖ LEPL -N5 Public School in Kobuleti supports social engagement of Roma youth through informal “social inclusion” program for elementary (8-11 year olds) and senior (11-15 year olds) class pupils. The school runs reading (attended by 12 Roma and 8 local peers), dancing (with 8 Roma and 7 local peers) and drama (7 Roma and 8 local peers) clubs. The above activities have been instrumental for improving the knowledge of the state language, which has positively impacted their academic performance;
- ❖ Inclusion of the so called “invisible” Roma adolescents into the educational process and the assessment by multidisciplinary team was carried out through informal education in 2017-2019. They have been studying at the basic level with a specially devised individual plan;
- ❖ In 2018-2019, Public Schools of Zugdidi and Poti, within the scope of a grants competition, offered field trainings to beneficiaries of sub-program, where Roma adolescents from different regions of Georgia and their peers were given the opportunity to share information about Roma community culture and their everyday life;

65 adolescents from Roma community were involved in projects funded in the framework of the sub program of inclusion during the year. 8 Roma representatives were employed (as coordinators of Roma community under social inclusion program, among them 1 as a dance teacher, 1 as a mail delivery agent, and 1 was employed in a private sector for a short-term job (seasonal job). Besides, the Ministry is working to provide the second chance of education for children living and working on the streets, including Roma children, who are left without education. More specifically, the Ministry provides a special educational service (transit programs) for adolescents who are left without schooling or are at high risk of staying without school education for their integration-reintegration on the basis of day care centers for homeless children or other care services.

#### **1.1.1.1. Carrying out various activities within a framework of Coordination Council of Ethnic Minorities under Tbilisi Municipality City Assembly**

Coordination Council of Ethnic Minorities under Tbilisi Municipality City Assembly carried out various activities and meetings with the participation of ethnic minority representatives, including the event dedicated to “Nowruz Bayram” (hosting about 200 guests)

#### **1.1.1.2 Rendering assistance in arranging identification documents of ethnic minority representatives living in Batumi in the framework of the “House of Friendship” activities.**

During 2019, the “House of Friendship” within its competence, rendered the assistance to 35 beneficiaries from ethnic minorities who were in need of help in arranging identification documents, as well as the problems related to property registration, getting information about issuing visas to foreign countries, informational support regarding private entrepreneurial activities. Besides, on the requests of representatives of ethnic minorities, various documents compiled in non-state languages have been translated into the official state language and certified by the Notary Office. As well as, documents have been translated from Georgian language into other languages, as required.

#### **1.1.1.3 Providing access to information on municipal programs for ethnic minority representatives living in Batumi**

In order to improve ethnic minority representatives’ involvement at a local level, beneficiaries of the “House of Friendship” have actively been taking part in public presentation of 2019 budget and in public discussions on 2020 budget.

On January 22, 2019, the representatives of Batumi municipality held a meeting with ethnic minority representatives to familiarize them with 2019 budget. The meeting was attended by 20 representatives of 9 ethnic groups (Azerbaijani, Greek, Jewish, Turkish, Yazidis, Russian, Armenian, Ukrainian). Participants discussed the issues of financing cultural events planned for 2019, where they expressed the idea of promoting ethnic diversity of Batumi during the celebration of “Batumoba”. As a result, one of the central events held in Batumi Boulevard during 2019 “Batumoba” was the pageantry called “Friendship Alley”.

On October 15, 2019 a meeting for the representatives of ethnic minorities living in Batumi was organized on the initiative of the City Council of Batumi municipality in the “House of Friendship” where they discussed 2020 draft budget. 26 representatives of ethnic minorities attended the meeting. The idea of increasing the sum allocated to ethnic minorities in the budget was expressed at the meeting, which has been reflected in the budget of 2020.

#### **1.1.1.4 Approval of youth policy document by municipalities on the activities supporting the integration of ethnic minorities**

The process of developing the municipal youth policy document in the city council of Marneuli municipality has been finalized. The document covers a three-year period and envisages implementation of various projects, programs and activities with the purpose of integration of representatives of ethnic minorities.

The process of working on the document included the survey on the needs of the youth (focus groups); meetings with non-governmental/governmental sector, communication with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia.

The document specifies the following priorities:

- ❖ Supporting informal education;
- ❖ Safe environment;
- ❖ Equal opportunities for development;
- ❖ Supporting self-realization;
- ❖ Taking part in decision-making process.

#### **1.1.1.5 Conducting activities to provide proper documentation for the persons without birth certificates/IDs or with defective documentation**

During 2019, within the framework of the project “Preventing and Reducing Statelessness in Georgia” Ministry of Justice of Georgia provided assistance in arranging identification data to 9 representatives of the Roma community. Besides the Ministry issued 1 residence certificate and 1 temporary ID; Georgian citizenship was determined in three cases (ID card issued), three birth certificates were issued, and in one case, the status of statelessness was determined.

### **Interim goal: 1.2 Gender Mainstreaming**

#### **Objective 1.2.1 Elimination of gender based discrimination**

State agencies engaged in state inter-agency commission work, continued implementation of specific activities and projects during the year in the following priority fields:

- Raising awareness of women’s rights/gender equality;
- Providing access to information about domestic violence/ early marriage;
- Supporting women’s social and economic empowerment.

Information meetings were intensively held on the subject of domestic violence and early marriage. The geographic coverage of meetings was expanded and the number of beneficiaries increased. Young representatives of ethnic minorities were retrained, who further disseminated the obtained information in the regions compactly settled with ethnic minorities.

In 2019, special attention was devoted to the development of business skills among ethnic minority women which resulted in producing several specific project proposals.

#### **1.2.1.1 Holding meetings on raising awareness about gender equality in the regions densely populated with ethnic minorities**

About 20 meetings were held within the 16-day campaign dedicated to the violence against women, which was initiated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. 17 meetings were held in Tbilisi, one in Rustavi, one in Marneuli and one in village Iormughanlo. The pupils attending the meetings received information about practical issues of violence against women and domestic violence, the importance of gender equality, early marriage, forced marriage, bullying and its negative impact and how to protect themselves against violence. About 500 pupils took part in the meetings. Within the frames of a 16-day campaign, information booklets were published. Ministry of Internal Affairs actively cooperated with international and local non-governmental organizations.



In 2019, on the initiative of the Department of Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia with the support of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), funded by Swedish government and within the framework of the UN program – “For Gender Equality”, an 18-day information campaign “Do not Take Away our Childhood” was launched. 15 meetings in total were held in Gori, Kaspi, Batumi, Kobuleti, Kutaisi, Telavi, Gardabani, Dmanisi, village Mukhrani, Rustavi, village Kosalari of Tetrtskharo municipality, Marneuli, Sagarejo, village Baidari and other. Meetings were attended by school children as well as teachers, representatives of local self-government bodies and other stakeholders (1000 beneficiaries). On November 15-22, 2019, for the first time in Georgia, a weekly cycle of events on equality issues was launched. Within the frames of the week, various information meetings were held, which enabled access to the information about the importance of equality and legal mechanisms for combatting discrimination for the youth, people of different professions and groups. Representatives of ethnic minorities from regions actively participated in the meetings.

#### **1.2.1.2 Empowering women entrepreneurs – LEPL - “Enterprise Georgia” of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia**

The program supporting micro and small entrepreneurship was not implemented in 2019 and consequently, no activities took place in the sphere of the Empowering women entrepreneurs.

#### **1.2.1.3 Retraining of teachers and class tutors in bullying prevention and encouraging tolerance culture, as well as gender issues**

The training on “The prevention of bullying and encouraging tolerance culture in schools” was provided to 453 participants throughout Georgia in 2019, including ethnic minority representatives (teachers and class tutors).

#### **1.2.1.4 To carry out various activities by Coordination Council for Gender Equality at Tbilisi Municipality City Assembly**

Gender Equality Council of Tbilisi Municipality held 14 events in different fields in 2019.

#### **1.2.1.5 Organizing working meetings and trainings on the issues of gender- based discrimination for women- ethnic minorities**

These activities planned by Tbilisi Municipality City Assembly were not implemented.

#### **1.2.1.6 Organizing meetings within the activities of “Women’s Club” functioning at the “House of Friendship” in Batumi aiming to reduce/ prevent violence against women**

There are 32 ethnic minority beneficiaries registered at the “Women’s Club”, functioning at the “House of Friendship”. Monthly meetings held during the reporting year were aimed at women’s economic, social and political empowerment, protection of their rights. Information campaigns on the prevention of violence against women and seeking the ways of solution of various problems, such as keeping the victims of violence (or potential victim) safe from the abuser.

#### **1.2.1.7 Ensuring women’s involvement in thematic trainings and meetings with non-governmental organizations working on gender issues**

The above activities planned by the City Council of Batumi municipality were not implemented during the year.

#### **1.2.1.8 Information meetings on the subject of gender equality with ethnic groups - the members of the “House of Friendship” under Batumi Center of Culture (non-profit legal entity)**

With the support of LEPL legal assistance bureau of Adjara, two information meetings were organized by the “House of friendship” on gender issues. Participants were consulted on various legal issues as well. The meetings were attended by 70 representatives of ethnic minorities.

#### **1.2.1.9 Consultancy meetings on legal issues were held within the framework of the campaign against gender - based violence at the “House of Friendship” in Batumi with legal advice offices**

Three information –consultancy meetings were held in 2019, with the aim of elimination of violence against women and domestic violence within the frames of the government campaign. The meetings were attended by 35 representatives of ethnic minorities. The following issues were discussed: domestic violence and identification of the status of violence victims and corresponding responsive measures;

#### **1.2.1.10 Holding meetings within the activities of municipal service “Women’s Rooms” regarding “Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities”**

Information meetings were planned and held by a municipal service- “Women’s Room”, Healthcare and Social Service Agency of the city council with the representatives of ethnic minorities living in the administrative unit of villages Khitaani and Chumlakhi of Gurjaani Municipality of Kakheti region where the “Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities” was discussed.

#### **1.2.1.11 Delivering the lecture (4hrs.) for the fourth-year cadets of the Academy on the principles of gender equality**

The assessable lecture (4 hrs.) on gender equality principles was delivered to the 4<sup>th</sup> year cadets of the National Defence Academy

#### **1.2.1.12 Delivering introductory training for first-year cadets (2 hrs.) on the principles of gender equality and resolutions of the UN Security Council**

The activity planned by Davit Aghmashenebeli National Defense Academy was not implemented during the year.

#### **1.2.1.13 Delivering introductory training (2hrs.) on the principles of gender equality for students enrolled in the Academy in 2019-2020**

In 2019 an introductory training (2hrs.) on gender equality principles was delivered for students enrolled in the Academy, among them for the representatives of ethnic minorities.

#### **1.2.1.14 Conducting meetings and trainings organized by a municipal service “Women’s Rooms” oriented at women’s economic empowerment (women’s startup businesses, entrepreneurship), reduction/prevention of violence against women, their rights and involvement in decision-making process.**

Each Municipality of Kvemo Kartli region conducted information campaigns on the prevention of early marriage and violence against women, domestic violence, women’s economic empowerment, their involvement in

decision-making processes, reproductive health, their rights, gender equality and healthy lifestyle, how to work on business projects. About 50 meetings/trainings were held on the above issues in which about 400 beneficiaries took part. It is noteworthy that 2 projects on the empowerment of women entrepreneurs were funded.

#### **1.2.1.15 Obeying gender equality principle while employing, keeping gender balance in managing councils**

Gender equality principle is obeyed during employment in the Municipalities of Kvemo Kartli region (Rustavi, Dmanisi, Marneuli, Gardabani ) City Halls, there are employed up 20 women.

- ❖ 85 employees out of total 180 are women in Bolnisi City Hall;
- ❖ 74 employees out of total 215 are women in Marneuli Municipality ;
- ❖ The total number of employees in the city Hall of Tetrirskharo Municipality is 118, where 76 employees are men and 42 - women;
- ❖ In GardabaniMunicipality 88 employees are women and 101 - men;
- ❖ In Dmanisi Municipality 23 employees are women and 70 - men;
- ❖ In Rustavi Municipality 124 employees are women and 99 - men;
- ❖ In Tsalka Municipality 26 employees are women and 64 - men.

#### **1.2.1.16 Establishment of Gender Councils and ensuring their efficient functioning in Kvemo Kartli Municipalities. The board meetings of Councils are held at the City Assemblies**

Meetings of Gender Council including field sessions, were actively conducted in municipalities of Kvemo Kartli region (Rustavi, Dmanisi, Marneuli and Bolnisi). Ethnic minority representatives took active part in the meetings. Gender Council of Marneuli Municipality held meetings in 5 villages to conduct the survey. On the initiative of Gender Council, trainings and meetings were held for public servants and women entrepreneurs in Gardabani Municipality. Gender Council held three meetings in Tsalka Municipality.

#### **1.2.1.17 To conduct a training for peer educators (TOT) on the issues of gender equality, domestic violence, early marriage in the framework of the project “Youth for Gender Equality”.**

In the framework of a joint project of the Office of State Minister and UN Association Georgia, in partnership with the State Fund of Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking, during the reporting period, volunteer peer educators were trained. As a result of the information campaign in 2018- 2019, the volunteers held 217 meetings in 147 villages of 21 Municipalities. More than 5 300 beneficiaries from ethnic minorities were informed about gender equality, early marriage, domestic violence, referral mechanisms and other issues.

#### **1.2.1.18 Educational training course “How to start and develop business” for women living in Pankisi gorge**

Educational training course “How to start and develop business” for women living in Pankisi gorge was delivered on a joint initiative of the Office of State Minister and the LEPL -Academy of the Ministry of Finance. The aim of the course was women’s economic empowerment. Upon the completion of the training course, in 2019, 11 participants out of 14 were awarded grants by UN Women’s Fund to start businesses.

#### **1.2.1.19 - 1.2.1.20 Organizing activities/ events within the framework of Gender Rooms**

The representative of Samtskhe –Javakheti regional administration coordinates Gender Councils created at Municipalities, working on gender equality issues. In this regard, the training cycle on gender issues was continued on the initiative of the regional administration and with the involvement of international organizations. Representatives of Women’s Rooms from Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda Municipalities are actively engaged in the trainings.

30 meetings were held in 5 villages in “Women’s Rooms” of Kakheti region Municipality. On the initiative of the Women’s Room of village Iormughanlo of Sagarejo municipality, the following activities took place: 40 beneficiaries were given free medical check-ups by invited doctors to the hospital of the village Iormughanlo. In 2019, “Women’s Room” of Telavi Municipality and the Gender Council held 2 meetings attended by about 30 representatives of ethnic minorities living in Telavi Municipality. Meetings were also held in Karajala village with school pupils and teachers, as well as the administration of a kindergarten and children’s parents. The issues related to early marriage, its negative sides, related legal and medical problems were discussed at the meetings.

**Interim goal 1.3 To increase the access of ethnic minorities to administrative and law-enforcement bodies and mechanisms**

**Objective: 1.3.1 To provide assistance in translating documents in ethnic minorities’ native languages to citizens who do not know the state language in regions compactly settled by ethnic minorities**

**1.3.1.1 Organize educational-information meetings on the issues of violence against women and domestic violence, as well as promote the state services existing in Tbilisi and regions**

Information meetings in the reporting period were held by the Fund of Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking. The meetings were held: on January 22 in Kvemo Kartli region, in a public school N 8 in Marneuli on the subject – “The rights and protection guarantees of the victims of domestic violence and trafficking, services guaranteed by the Fund and the ways of protection against trafficking and domestic violence” (attended by 65 pupils from Azerbaijani sector); On February 8 the meetings were held in two villages of Gardabani municipality (villages Gamarjveba and Kharajala). The subject of the meeting was – “Violence against women and domestic violence, as well as state services provided for the victims of violence” (attended by 105 pupils from Azerbaijani sector); On February 22, the meetings were held in N4 and N 8 public schools in Marneuli, KvemoKartli region on the topic – “The rights and protection guarantees of the victims of domestic violence and trafficking, services guaranteed by the Fund and the ways of protection against trafficking and domestic violence” (attended by 105 pupils).

**1.3.1.2 Provide translation of applications and other types of documents in non-Georgian languages (in Russian, Ukrainian and Greek languages), with notarial certification, if necessary, implemented within the framework of the activities of the “House of Friendship” in Batumi. See 1.1.1.2**

**1.3.1.3. Provide translation of the applications and documents prepared in non-state language for the citizens who do not know the state language, to submit to the state institutions**

Citizens in Samtskhe-Javakheti regional administration and Municipalities of the region have never faced any problems due to language barriers. They were given explanations and recommendations in their native language or the language they understood.

**Objective 1.3.2 To improve the involvement of ethnic minorities in the administration of State Attorney–Governors’ office**

**1.3.2.1 Ensuring the engagement of Minority Council members in the activities of Tbilisi City Assembly -Their participation in important meetings and commission sessions**

The activity planned by the Tbilisi City Assembly did not take place during the year.

**1.3.2.2 Holding meetings by the Council created to increase ethnic minorities’ civic engagement**

The meeting of Consulting Council of ethnic minority representatives was held during the reporting period in Telavi. Ethnic minorities and the representatives of civil society were actively involved in the discussions of various issues. Representatives of local self-governmental bodies presented the report on economic project implemented in areas settled by ethnic minorities.

**1.3.2.3 Holding sessions of the Council having been created to increase ethnic minorities’ civic engagement**

Consulting Council session was held in the administration of the State Attorney in Rustavi. NGOs functioning in the region, community leaders, representatives of educational sphere and self-governing bodies, as well as the employees of the Public Defender’s Office took part in it.

The subject of discussion at the session was the importance of participation of ethnic minorities in political and social life, the importance of knowledge of state language, encouragement of the culture of ethnic minorities, access to high quality education (challenges that exist in this field, namely, the lack of textbooks, infrastructural problems, insufficient number of kindergartens), as well as problems caused by early marriage, improving infrastructure in villages settled by ethnic minorities. The importance of creation of advisory councils to work on the problems of ethnic minorities in municipalities and their reasonability was emphasized.

**1.3.2.4 Inform ethnic minority representatives about announced competitions for job vacancies of public servants in the Governor’s administration with the aim of their participation, organizing such meetings in educational institutions - no information.**

Young people are informed about the participation in the competitions for job vacancies in administrative units settled by ethnic minorities announced by Samtskhe-Javakheti regional administration.

**Objective: 1.3.3 To improve an access of ethnic minority representatives to public services**

**1.3.3.1 Preparation/dissemination of educational and video materials on healthcare issues in the framework of the state Health Care Program**

Printed and video materials were prepared and disseminated in ethnic minority languages (Armenian and Azerbaijani) within the scope of state programs: “Health Promotion Program”, “Safe Blood” and “Early Diagnostics of the Disease and Screening”. 15 different materials were printed during the year; as well as that, 3 TV clips had been prepared with subtitles in ethnic minority languages. Representatives of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (LEPL) named after Levan Sakhvarelidze, took part in the information campaign organized by the Office of State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality in Samtskhe- Javakheti region. Namely, two meetings were held by the Center representatives, where the participants were informed about the screening programs for

Hepatitis C and Cancer. The screening for Hepatitis C was performed on site. Participants were given educational materials.

Within the framework of “Health Promotion Program”, 4 trainings were conducted with the participation of Public Health Municipal Centers’ representatives, as well as the representatives of Municipalities (Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda, Akhmeta) settled with ethnic minorities. The issues of digital health and communication principles in public health were discussed during trainings. Various types of surveys had been carried out together with donor organizations in the regions settled by ethnic minorities:

- ❖ “European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs – ESPAD 2019” – questionnaires in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages were used during the survey for ethnic minorities.
- ❖ “Men, Women and Gender Relations in Georgia”;
- ❖ Epidemiological Surveillance Initiative for Childhood Obesity”;
- ❖ “Popular Survey on Tobacco Prevalence”

#### **1.3.3.2 Providing information meeting to ethnic minority youth representatives about the City Assembly activities**

The activity planned by Tbilisi City Assembly was not carried out during the year

#### **1.3.3.3 Familiarizing with public services and on-going state/ autonomous republic/ municipal programs (educational, healthcare and social protection programs, various legal changes)**

The activity planned by Batumi City Assembly was not carried out during the year

#### **1.3.3.4 Information campaign on the process of Georgia’s European Integration**

The activity planned by Batumi City Assembly was not carried out during the year

#### **1.3.3.5 Information meetings with ethnic minority representatives on the subject of the process of Georgia’s European and Euro-Atlantic Integration**

Information Center organized about 125 events in 2019 for ethnic minority representatives dedicated to NATO and European Union issues. About 3 400 people had direct communication during these events.

The Information Center carried out regular activities about NATO and European Union, including public events, workshops, information meetings and campaigns, open discussions, educational-informative activities to provide information about the importance of the country’s European and Euro-Atlantic integration to ethnic minorities, about visa free travel in European Union countries, Association Agreement and Free Trade. Meetings were held in Tbilisi as well as in the Municipalities densely populated with ethnic minorities: Gardabani, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tetrtskharo, Tsalka, Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda. The meetings were also held in Pankisi Gorge, Lagodekhi, Sagarejo and Telavi. During the year, Information Center organized meetings with ethnic minority representatives, covering various target groups: teachers, pupils, and students, representatives of local self-governments, media and local population. Within the scope of the above activities, 21 events were held for ethnic minorities dedicated to the process of Georgia’s European and Euro-Atlantic Integration where about 1200 beneficiaries received information about the benefits of Georgia’s European and Euro-Atlantic Integration.

#### **Additional Activity:**

Information Center on NATO and European Union has been implementing a large-scale project entitled “Increasing Awareness about the Country’s Western Integration Process and Involvement in Georgian Regions” since 2019 with the financial support of the State Department of the United States of America. The aim of the project has been to provide objective and comprehensive information about the issues of Georgia’s integration in European and Euro-Atlantic structures in all ten regions of Georgia through strengthening the Center’s regional capacity and through media coverage, using print and online media as well. Within the framework of the project, regular information meetings have been held in compact settlements of ethnic minorities. As for the increase of media coverage, five local media outlets (in KvemoKartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions) prepared and delivered 48 thematic products concerning Georgia’ western integration in the areas settled by ethnic minorities in 2019.

A Public Center was built and opened in Tetritskharo with the purpose to improve accessibility to public services; currently, emergency medical care center is being built.

#### **1.3.3.6 Conducting ToT for ethnic minority students on the process of Georgia’s European integration within the scope of the project “Young European Ambassadors”**

The project “Young European Ambassadors” is a joint initiative of the Office of State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Information Center on NATO and European Union and the UN Association Georgia, which has been implemented within the program called “Promoting Integration, Tolerance and Awareness” (PITA) funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The aim of the project is to provide access to the information about Georgia’s integration in European and Euro-Atlantic structures in the regions compactly settled by ethnic minorities (Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti regions) in an understandable for them languages. For this purpose, in October of the reporting year, a school for trainers was conducted involving 20 young representatives of ethnic minorities from Tbilisi as well as from Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakhet, where the participants met with the representatives of state structures and invited experts, received information about Georgia’s integration in Europe and Euro-Atlantic structures, European values, future prospects and aspirations of the country. As a result of the training, the participants became peer educators, who will further disseminate information in their regions and hold information meetings about the importance of Georgia’s European and Euro-Atlantic integration and western values for target groups: parents, teachers and pupils.

#### **1.3.3.7 Holding information meetings about the process of Georgia’s European integration within the scope of the project “Young European Ambassadors”**

The aim of the project is to provide access to the information about Georgia’s integration in NATO and EU in the regions compactly populated with ethnic minorities (Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti) in languages that are understandable for them. A mobile group consisting of young people (20 participants) held 179 meetings in 152 villages of 39 Municipalities. The meetings were attended by 3376 representatives of ethnic minorities – parents, teachers and pupils. Corresponding informational materials were disseminated.

#### **1.3.3.8 Holding meetings in compact settlements of ethnic minorities with the aim to familiarize them with state policy on civic integration/ the rights of ethnic minorities**

During the reporting period, State Minister and the Office representatives held meetings in the regions compactly settled with ethnic minorities with the aim to familiarize them with the state policy and their rights (10 meetings were held).

### **1.3.3.9 Carrying out activities within the framework of the project “Raising awareness about Georgia’s European and Euro-Atlantic integration among public school teachers and headmasters in Pankisi gorge”.**

During the meeting, project participant teachers shared the gained experience with the Prime Minister as well as the EU Ambassador. Besides, teachers delivered a demo lesson based on the obtained knowledge from trainings entitled - “Europe at my lesson”. Project participant teachers took parts in the event “European Days 2019”.

### **1.3.3.10 Increasing the number of Houses of Justice in the administrative units populated with ethnic minorities, support construction of Houses of Justice (to prepare necessary documentation, allot a land plot)**

**Activities carried out by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia** during the reporting period: with regard to construction of Houses of Justice in the administrative units settled by ethnic minorities a new branch of the House of Justice was launched in Bolnisi on December 27, 2019.

### **1.3.3.11 Dissemination of information materials about public services and on-going state programs (among them in languages of ethnic minorities)**

During 2019, 74 450 brochures were distributed in public centers throughout Georgia, among them in regions densely populated with ethnic minorities. The brochures were about visa-free travel in EU countries. Besides, in October 2019, information materials about new services of business registry at Public Registry Office were disseminated in villages populated with ethnic minorities (Kumurdo, Phoka, Baraleti, Sadakhlo, Kazreti, Iormughanlo, Kabala, Martkhopi, Sartichala public centers), namely 7 000 triplets in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. The triplets were distributed in villages with Georgian speaking population (Community Centers). In this regard, it is important to mention that additional Community Centers were opened throughout Georgia during the year, among them in the regions densely populated with ethnic minorities, namely in village Khachaghani.

### **1.3.3.12 Providing information to accused/ convicted representatives of ethnic minorities on their rights**

During the year, 278 beneficiaries in the penitentiary system were provided a training course on the rights of the accused/convicted citizens; among them were ethnic minority representatives. In case of language barrier, the beneficiaries were provided with translation. Besides, social workers in the penitentiary system have electronic versions of the informational document on the rights of the accused/convicted in 5 languages (English, Russian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Turkish) which can be made available for the accused/ convicted persons upon their request.

## **Objective: 1.3.4. Increasing the involvement of ethnic minorities in public administration and public services and professional development**

### **1.3.4.1-1.3.4.2 Implementation 1+4 internship program**

Provision of the internship Program 1+4 continued for ethnic minority representatives in public service structures. The above program, which has been implemented since 2017 on the initiative of the State Minister’s Office, is popular among ethnic minority youth. After the completion of the program, young people started their professional career in non-Georgian schools, local self-governing bodies and other institutions. The aim of the program is to support young people and help them gain proper experience and develop professional skills. 87 youngsters did the internship during 2019. 298 young persons have taken part in the internship program so far.



### **1.3.4.3 Providing working practice to young representatives of ethnic minorities**

The activity planned by Batumi Municipality did not take place during the year.

### **1.3.4.4 Organizing meetings with Governor, leaders of municipal and educational institutions in the administrative units densely populated with ethnic minorities to familiarize them with the activities of public service structures and provide employment to ethnic minorities**

In 2019, Samtskhe –Javakheti state attorney and representatives of administration had 7 meetings with Samtskhe –Javakheti University professors and lecturers and ethnic minority students. The aim of these meetings was to familiarize them with ongoing processes in the country, as well as with state language program and employment procedures in public sector.

### **1.3.4.5 Ensuring the involvement of the representatives of ethnic minority public servants employed in public services in various educational programs**

Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration has been functioning in Akhalkalaki since 2013. The Center provides the State language Teaching Program and since 2015 it has added discipline-specific programs.

In the reporting period Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration (LEPL) provided training in public management and public administration to 30 representatives of ethnic minorities.

### **Interim goal: 1.4 Encouraging participation of ethnic minority representatives in policy decision making process**

#### **Objective:1.4.1 Ensuring participation of ethnic minority representatives in voting procedures and making an informed choice**

On May 19, 2019, the election administration conducted the elections of the Parliament of Georgia (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds) and the interim elections of City Assemblies, as well as off-year elections of the Mayors of municipalities, including off-year elections of the Mayor of Marneuli Municipality and interim elections in Akhmeta Municipality City Assembly.<sup>1</sup>

#### **1.4.1.1 Implementation of educational programs for the young representatives of ethnic minorities:**

1. “Electoral Development School ”(18-24year-olds)
2. “Elections and Young Voters”  
(For 11-12<sup>th</sup>grade pupils of public schools)
3. “Educational Course in Electoral Law” (for Akhaltsikhe University students);
4. “Informational-educational course for electoral administrators” (for citizens above 18)

“Electoral Development School” for young people between 18-24

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<sup>1</sup>Elections held on May 19, 2019: on October 8, 2016, Majoritarian elections of the Parliament of Georgia in N1 electoral district. Interim elections of the Georgian Parliament, municipality representative body – City Assembly elections with majoritarian system on October 21, 2017 in Sagarejo, Akhmeta, Adigeni, Zestaponi, Chiatura, Tskhibuli, Tskhaltubo and Ozurgeti municipality interim elections, Marneuli, Zestaponi, Chiatura, Zugdidi and Khulo municipality Mayor’s off-year elections. Citizens elected one Member of Parliament using the majoritarian system, eight members of City Assembly in eight Municipalities and five mayors in five Municipalities.

In 2019, the Central Electoral Commission and the Center for Electoral Systems Development, Reforms and Trainings (LEPL), with the support of Council of Europe and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems implemented the fifth stage of a project entitled “Electoral Development School”. The project coverage area was expanded and it was implemented in 27 schools in Tbilisi and 25 municipalities<sup>2</sup>.

The school has been functioning in Akhmeta municipality for three years now, in which young people from Pankisi gorge took part. It was important that the activities were carried out in the municipalities compactly settled with ethnic minorities, namely, in Gardabani, Akhaltsikhe and Marneuli.

On July 15-26, 2019, a ten-day training course was provided for young people aged 18-24. The participants got familiar with the following issues: organization of state institutions; forms of direct democracy; legal regulation of elections; international principles; European Parliament; international organizations: observation and assistance in elections; history of elections and statistics in Georgia; elections of the foundation meeting in 1919; electoral systems in Georgia; models of electoral administration; electoral administration of Georgia; parties involved in elections; gender equality; gender and elections; constituents’ registration; pre-election period; opening of a precinct; closing of a precinct (summarizing); review of the electoral cycle .

463 youngsters successfully completed the course and were awarded certificates. 296 (64%) out of total number were women and 167 (36%) – men. In three regions populated with ethnic minorities, 62 youngsters did the course successfully and were awarded certificates, among them 36 (58%) were women and 26 (42%) – men. See the detailed information in Table 1 below.

**Table 1.**

N of the district	Name of the district	Number of certified participants	Women	men
18	Akhmeta	16	10	6
21	Gardabani	12	5	7
22	Marneuli	19	10	9
37	Akhhaltsikhe	15	11	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>62</b>	<b>36 (58%)</b>	<b>26 (42%)</b>

### “Training Course for Electoral Administrators” – for citizens above 18

Training project “Electoral administrators’ courses – for potential members of district electoral commission” is aimed at raising civic awareness regarding electoral issues, which is favorable for the formation of qualified human resource in the administration. The Training Center retrained 153 trainers. Training materials were translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. The program also included the training module on the involvement of persons with disabilities in the electoral process.

The first stage of the training project was implemented in the period from September 25 till October 25, 2019 in 64 municipalities, while the second stage took place in the period between November 25 and December 17, 2019.<sup>3</sup> 7 751 participants successfully completed the project course and were awarded certificates. 6 273 (81%) of the

<sup>2</sup>Ambrolauri, Akhgori, Akhaltsikhe, Akhmeta, Batumi, Borjomi, Gardabani, Gori, Gurjaani, Dusheti, Zestaponi, Zugdidi, Telavi, Marneuli, Ourgeti, Rustavi, Samtredia, Sachkhere, Senaki, Signaghi, Poti, Kobuleti, Khoni, Khashuri

<sup>3</sup>The second stage of the project was implemented in 8 municipalities (Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Rustavi, Marneuli, Sagarejo, Gori, Zugdidi, Batumi).

total number of trainees were women and 1 478 (19%) were men. As for the regions settled by ethnic minorities, the project was implemented in 12 municipalities. See detailed information in Table 2 below.

**Table 2.**

District N	Name of the district	Number of certified trainees	women	Men
11	Sagarejo (1 <sup>st</sup> stage)	100	88	12
11	Sagarejo (2 <sup>nd</sup> stage)	28	25	3
15	Lagodekhi	86	63	23
17	Telavi	89	82	7
21	Gardabani	108	91	17
22	Marneuli(1 <sup>st</sup> stage)	208	59	149
22	Marneuli (2 <sup>nd</sup> stage)	74	14	60
23	Bolnisi	127	65	62
24	Dmanisi	100	49	51
25	Tsalka	86	56	30
26	Tetritskharo	81	73	8
37	Akhalsikhe	81	70	11
40	Akhalkalaki	169	83	86
41	Ninotsminda	100	55	45
<b>Total</b>		<b>1437</b>	<b>873 (60.75%)</b>	<b>564 (39.25%)</b>

#### **“Elections and young constituents” devised for 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade pupils**

The implementation of the project “Elections and young constituents” served the aim of raising awareness of electorate system and increasing the civic responsibility. The training course covered the following issues: historical background of elections practice and modernity, elections and democracy, electoral administration and constituents, other stakeholders involved in elections.

The project was implemented in 145 schools in 64 municipalities, among them in 24 public schools in 12 municipalities<sup>4</sup> compactly settled with ethnic minorities. 2 763 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade pupils completed the training course, among them were 457 pupils from ethnic minority regions.

#### **“Training Course on Electoral Law” for Akhatsikhe University students**

The educational program in electoral law was provided for Akhalsikhe University students. The aim of the program was to deepen professional knowledge of electoral law, develop students’ practical skills and favor raising civic awareness. Within the scope of the course the students became familiar with the following issues: the concept of elections, types of elections and regularity, electoral systems, Georgian electoral legal sources and principles, electoral process and the managing body, authorities of the electoral administration of Georgia and

<sup>4</sup>Sagarejo, Lagodekhi, Telavi, Gardabani, Marenuli, Bolnisi, Tetritskharo, Dmanisi, Tsalka, Akhalsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda

work regulations, parties involved in elections, registration of constituents, pre-election campaign, information support of pre-election campaign, financing elections, time and place of ballot, opening of a precinct, procedures before balloting, the process of balloting, closing the precinct, summarizing the results of balloting, summarizing balloting and election results, election disputes, Presidential elections in Georgia, Parliamentary elections in Georgia, elections of the Supreme Council of Adjara Autonomous Republic, elections of the representative body –City Assembly of the local self-governing communities and cities, referendum, plebiscite. 23 students did the course.

#### **1.4.1.2 Issuing small grants to civic organizations and minority communities with the aim of conducting information campaigns on the importance of elections and strengthening electoral culture.**

In 2019, the Central Election Commission determined priorities and on the basis of its resolution the Training Center announced two grant competitions on February 18 and June 25, 2019.

For grant competition announced for February 18, 2019, the Central Election Commission specified the following priorities:<sup>5</sup>

**The first priority**– Providing information to constituents about forthcoming interim Parliamentary elections in May 2019 – elections of the representative body of municipality – interim City Assembly and off-year Mayor’s elections.

**The second priority** - raising awareness of young constituents about elections and enhancing civic culture;

On the decision of the grant competition commission, the Training Center funded four NGO projects for the first priority that were implemented in Marneuli Municipality. The total budget of the funded projects amounted to 7960 GEL; for the second grant it funded four NGO projects which were implemented in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe –Javakheti with the total budget of 119 852 GEL.

For the grant competition announced on June 25, 2019, the priority set by Central Election Commission was constituents’ education in the development of electoral and civic culture<sup>6</sup>.

On the decision of grant competition commission, the Training Center funded 8 NGO projects in regions compactly settled with ethnic minorities (Kvemo Kartli, Kaheti and Samtskhe-Javakheti) with the aim of educating constituents. The total budget of the projects was 236 790 GEL. The projects were implemented from September 25 to November 25, 2019.

#### **Additional Activities**

On May 19, 2019, Central Election Commission conducted the following activities for the Mayor’s year-off elections in Marneuli Municipality:

90 electoral districts were created in N22 Marneuli district election commission: Georgian-Azerbaijani -78; Georgian-Armenian -8; Georgian-Armenian- Azerbaijani - 4.

The number of ethnic minority representatives in District Election Commission was 307 (262-Azerbaijani language-speakers; 45- Armenian language-speakers) who had been given intensive training course. Election documentation and guidelines were translated in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages.

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<sup>5</sup>CEC determined the priorities for grant financing on the order N2/2019 for February 8, 2019

<sup>6</sup>On the Order №128/2019 dated June 17, 2019 CEC determined the priority of the grant competition for funding

For ethnic minority constituents, Central Election Commission translated one video clip “Procedures on the day of balloting” into Azerbaijani language. Ethnic minority constituents had an opportunity to check the venue of the electoral district on the CEC webpage.

To facilitate the process of voting, the following election materials were printed and translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages for the constituents living in Marneuli Municipality regions: election bulletins (in Georgian-Armenian, Georgian Azerbaijani and Georgian-Armenian-Azerbaijani languages), voters' list, the rules of filling the bulletin and the poster illustrating the procedure of participation in the ballot.

In 2019, information campaign “We speak to Constituents” was carried out throughout Georgia. 214 meetings in total were held in public places, municipality centers and villages, among them, 14 meetings were held in municipalities and villages compactly settled with ethnic minorities.

Within the activities of the election campaign “Find yourself, find your district”, the representatives of district election commission and volunteers, together with constituents organized 10 campaigns with the purpose of checking personal data in the list in the center of the municipality and villages<sup>7</sup> and the representatives of N18 district election commission in Akhmeta, held two campaigns for interim elections of the municipality City Assembly for the Kist constituents in villages Khalatsani and Omalo. Representatives of the election administration provided them the service of finding their personal and their family members' data in the lists. District Election Commission members disseminated the following fliers according to the place of constituents' registration: procedures on the day of balloting and the written address of the chairperson of CEC to young people, the first time voters. Besides, all information materials on the Mayor's year-off elections were translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages.

Within the framework of awareness raising campaigns, in 2019, the Central Election Commission initiated the meetings with young constituents for the first time, organized jointly by NGOs, funded by Training Center grants competition, and district election commission. The aim of these meetings was to inform young people about elections and their electoral rights, services offered by election administration and educational programs. Representatives of Marneuli district election commission organized four information meetings in which about 90 persons took part. Similar meetings were held in Gardabani, Tetrtskharo, Akhmeta and Ninotsminda by district election commission representatives, in which about 100 young people took part in total.

Central Election Commission organizes open door days to inform stakeholders about election administration, how to organize election process and CEC activities. Within the program activities, the workshops - “Elections and Young Constituents” were held where they used the simulation model of balloting procedure.

#### **1.4.1.3 Involvement of regional administration within its competence in the activities for raising civic awareness of ethnic minority representatives**

Regional administration services of Samtskhe –Javakheti actively cooperate with regional media. Besides, public information is not restricted. Media representatives are actively involved in the activities organized by both central bodies and NGO sector that serve the solution of ethnic minority problems and increase their civic engagement. About 20 thematic meetings were held during the year.

#### **1.4.1.4 “Open Door” days” in regional administration for ethnic minority representatives to familiarize them with administration activities and problems – no information is available.**

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<sup>7</sup>The campaigns were conducted in the following villages of Marneuli Municipality: Khizilajlo, Shaumiani, Khulari, Kapanakhchi, Algeti, Shulaveri, Sadaxlo, Tsereteli, Tamarisi

#### **1.4.1.5 Ensuring participation of ethnic minorities in budget discussions in municipalities and planning and implementing various activities**

In the reporting period, population was involved in public discussions regarding budget fulfillment and planning in Samtskhe-Javakheti Municipalities, development of project proposals, as well as meetings in working groups that were created to devise Samtskhe-Javakheti development strategy action plan, in which municipality representatives are involved, including ethnic minorities.

#### **Interim goal: 1.5. Providing improved access to mass media and information for ethnic minority representatives**

##### **Objective: 1.5.1 Ensuring availability of TV programs and electronic/print media in the languages of ethnic minorities**

Non-Georgian language print media has been supported. During the year, weekly newspaper in Armenian language “Vrastan” was released (102<sup>nd</sup> issue, circulation 3 500) and Azerbaijani weekly newspaper “Gurjistan” (98<sup>th</sup> issue, circulation 2000) with the state support. Newspapers have been disseminated in Tbilisi and in regions compactly settled with ethnic minorities, as well as in penitentiary establishments.

##### **1.5.1.1 Participation of speakers in regional TV programs to discuss environmental protection and agriculture.**

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia has developed an information video clip aired on regional TV stations; 3 graphic clips about agricultural insurance program which was on air for two months on Tok TV in Samtskhe –Javakheti region, Marneuli TV and Channel 4 in Kvemo Kartli region.

##### **1.5.1.2 Dissemination of information brochures about animal diseases and plant pests in ethnic minority languages**

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia disseminated 4 500 brochures, fliers and posters: 1 500 were about infectious diseases; 1 500 about animal registration/identification; 1 500 about milk and milk-related diseases.

Brochures, fliers, and posters included information on the following infectious diseases: rabies, brucellosis, lumpy skin disease, small ruminant plague, anthrax; also information about registration/identification of cattle and ruminants. Materials were disseminated in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages.

##### **1.5.1.3 Dissemination of information materials (newspapers, brochures, booklets, information video material, etc.) in the regions compactly settled with ethnic minorities**

20 000 brochures developed by different projects were disseminated in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions; newspaper issued by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture were distributed (3 500 issues). Within the framework of mobile extension, 27 905 different kinds of information materials were distributed - 5 100 in Kvemo Kartli, 7 685 – in Samtskhe-Javakheti, 15 120 – in Kakheti.

##### **Additional activity:**

Information Center on NATO and EU (LEPL) prepared and disseminated information materials in ethnic minority languages in 2019, among them were: “13 Myths about NATO” (in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages), “10 Myths about European Union”, and brochures about visa –free travel (in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages).

#### **1.5.1.4 Dissemination of information about state healthcare and social protection programs**

See 1.3.3.1. Report on the performance of the above activities

#### **1.5.1.5 Raising awareness about the implemented and on-going reforms in the sphere of work and employment (labor rights)**

The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Healthcare and Social Protection conducted a training workshop for the representatives of regional and central media and stakeholders (local NGOs/international organizations, social partners, employers) to spread information and raise awareness about employment services.

During 2019, an information meeting with ethnic minorities was held in Kvemo Kartli region, in Marneuli and Dmanisi Municipalities. The meeting was about supporting employment, work safety and labor rights. Representatives of Municipalities, NGOs and other stakeholders attended the meeting (more than 100 participants). Information booklets (about 150) were distributed among participants, the community leaders of Marneuli municipality, Administrative heads of Dmanisi Municipality, NGOs. Besides, the department of labor inspection disseminated the information booklets.

#### **1.5.1.6 Regular coverage of ongoing processes in the region on the Governor's Administration webpage; publishing materials on municipality webpage**

Due to technical reasons, the webpage of the state administration in Samtskhe-Javakheti is currently unavailable, but social network (Facebook) is functioning actively, regularly covering ongoing activities in the region and in administrative units compactly populated with ethnic minorities.

#### **1.5.1.7 Provide the accused/convicted ethnic minority representatives with public broadcasting**

20 TV channels are available in penitentiary establishments broadcasting in ethnic minority languages.

### **Interim goal 1.6: Providing information about the rights of ethnic minorities**

#### **Objective 1.6.1 Informing the public about the fulfillment of Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities” and the European Charter for “Regional or Minority Languages”**

As a result of information campaign carried out in compact settlements of ethnic minorities, the level of their awareness regarding various issues rose considerably. Namely, they were informed about human rights, protection of ethnic minorities, and international mechanisms.

#### **1.6.1.1 Organizing trainings/meetings for ethnic minorities in cooperation with NGOs on the issues of Georgian legislation, rights of ethnic minorities, in order to get them familiar with Framework Convention For the Protection of National Minorities”**

The above activity planned by Tbilisi City Assembly was not implemented during the year.

#### **1.6.1.2 Holding information meeting organized by Batumi City Hall and “House of Friendship” with the aim to provide information on Framework Convention For the Protection of National Minorities” and**

the European Charter for “Regional or Minority Languages” with the participation of mass media, NGOs and educational institutions

The above activity planned by Batumi municipality was not implemented during the year

### **1.6.1.3 Information meetings aimed at providing information about Framework Convention For the Protection of National Minorities”**

The meetings were organized by the Office of State Minister to discuss ethnic minority rights and the fulfillment of Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Samtskhe-Javakheti, KvemoKartli and Kakheti regions.

### **1.6.1.4 Strengthening cooperation with media, relevant agencies and coordination with NGOs, planning joint activities**

Samtskhe- Javakheti regional administration and regional municipalities are cooperating with Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda Municipalities as well as information agencies functioning in the country;

**Objective: 1.6.2 Raising awareness of public servants and target groups of ethnic minorities in the sphere of ethnic minority rights and anti-discrimination legislation**

#### **1.6.2.1-1.6.2.2 Provide training to law-enforcers on the issues of discrimination**

- 10 trainings regarding activities against fighting discrimination, hate crime and hate speech have been conducted since January 2019 with the support of Council of Europe and OSCE (one meeting with the support of OSCE, seven – with the support of European Council project “Fighting Discrimination, Hate Crime and Hate Speech in Georgia”). 46 employees of the structures and territorial units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on top positions and 80 members of general staff were trained;
- Besides, in 2019 Ministry of Internal Affairs launched a program to retrain investigators on the issues of hate crime. The training module was developed by state agencies as well as NGOs, working in this specific field.
- Department of Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia has developed recommendations for investigators with the purpose to enhance quality of investigation of crimes committed on the basis of discrimination and intolerance and introduced guidelines for practical application. The document includes identification of crimes of the above categories and issues connected to efficient investigation. More specifically, the recommendation comprises the following issues: interpretation of the crime committed on the basis of discrimination and intolerance and signs of discrimination, information about the assumed crime targets and methodology of investigation, standards for relationships between investigator and the affected person, circumstances to be taken into account to identify intolerance and questions that must be asked during interrogation of the victim, witness and accused. Recommendation presents theoretical as well as practical examples, which will favor upgrading investigators’ qualification and the ability to identify the motive of intolerance and conduct investigation efficiently. In the process of drafting the document, Department of Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring actively cooperated with experts of



European Council, Public Defender's Office, and local NGOs. The recommendation has already been sent to relevant structural sub-units and territorial bodies.

### **1.6.2.3. Organizing trainings/ meetings with representatives of ethnic minorities in cooperation with NGOs to familiarize them with ethnic minority rights and Framework Convention For the Protection of National Minorities**

The above activity planned by Batumi Municipality was not implemented during the year

### **1.6.2.4 Organizing field meetings in administrative units compactly settled with ethnic minorities with the purpose to identify their problems and needs**

Samtskhe-Javakheti regional administration services actively cooperate with media functioning in the region. Public information from administration is released without restriction. Involvement in the activities organized by central agencies and NGO sector dedicated to the solution of ethnic minority needs and increase their civic activities is high.

### **1.6.2.5 Raising awareness of the employees of the Ministry of Justice through conducting trainings and information meetings about the rights of ethnic minorities and anti-discrimination legislation.**

From January 2019, Training Center of Justice started the "Orientating Course for Escort Officers" intended for escort officers of special penitentiary service. The course envisages 5-7- hour training on –"What is discrimination?" The training considers the specificity and particularities of the target group.

Besides, the Department of International Law of the Ministry of Justice and the Training Center of Justice, jointly with UNDP and with the support of Norwegian government, organized a public lecture in Khvareli Training Center of Justice for the employees of the Ministry of Justice on the following topic: "Human rights- based approach and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals". Participants discussed the importance of human rights-based approach, anti-discrimination legislation, Human Rights policy and the strategy in the process of achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Additional activities:**

**Ministry of Defense of Georgia** - in 2018-2019, an organizational climate survey – " Women, Peace and Safety in the Defense Forces of Georgia: Organizational Assessment" was conducted to reveal the attitudes of employees in the system of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia (civil office, general staff, defense forces of Georgia) towards working environment, colleagues and leadership, also equal opportunities of development and harassment, as well as to study the situation regarding discrimination on grounds of gender. The project was funded by NATO SPS Program and is the result of joint work of the Georgian government, Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Great Britain and Spanish Ministries of Defense.

On the basis of analysis of the data obtained through quantitative (questionnaires) and qualitative (focus groups) methods, a report and relevant recommendations were prepared. Part of recommendations will be reflected in a new, 2020 strategy on gender equality of the Ministry of Defense and in the concept of recruitment of military personnel. The latter is in the process of improvement and is currently used as a working version.

The report on the survey is an internal document of the organization, however, representatives of HR department organized a meeting in Defense Institution Building School on September 20, 2019 to familiarize NGOs and representatives of security sector with the survey methodology, results and experience.

The documents on segregated data on grounds of gender are being developed and measures to be taken are being planned in order to ensure gender mainstreaming in the security sector of Georgia. This will allow the Ministry of Defense to fulfill their responsibilities regarding the national action plan.

Complying with “Gender Equality Strategy” of the Ministry of Defense and with the support of Women’s Organization, regular trainings are provided to gender advisors of the Ministry of Defense and sub-units of armed forces on gender- based mechanisms to improve the appeal of events and military education and pre-deployment training in international peacekeeping operations in the process of systematization of gender issues.

In 2019, 1530 service persons during pre-deployment training, to be sent on missions to Central Africa and Afghanistan (taking culture, religion, traditions and values into account) were provided training on gender equality principles, UN resolution and domestic violence in view of post-traumatic mental disorder risk. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on gender equality, women, peace and security and further resolutions, as well as international humanitarian law course are integrated into all curricula of officers’ and sergeants’ educational course and also in pre-deployment training programs in international peacekeeping operations.

## Strategic goal 2

### Providing Equal Social and Economic Conditions and Opportunities

#### Interim goal2.1.Supporting Social and regional mobility

#### Objective:2.1.1 Providing support for the improvement of economic conditions of ethnic minorities

##### 2.1.1.1 Information campaign on state services and programs

Information campaign initiated and organized by the Office of State Minister was held in Samtskhe-Javakheti region with the participation of the Ministries of Healthcare, Economy, Finance, Justice, Environmental Protection and Agriculture. The importance of ongoing and implemented projects by above Ministries was emphasized and population was informed about state programs and services. 11 meetings were held in 4 Municipalities of the region.

##### 2.1.1.2 Conducting information-consulting meetings with farmers within the framework of “mobile extension” in the regions compactly settled with ethnic minorities

382 information-consulting meetings were held within the framework of “mobile extension”. 279 meetings were held in Kvemo Kartli, 57 – in Samtskhe-Javakheti, 46- in Kakheti. Besides, in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions there were 35-40 information-consulting meetings. Number of beneficiaries: 800-1,000.

### **2.1.1.3 Conducting information meetings on state programs in support of cooperatives in compact settlements of ethnic minorities (Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti)**

4 information meetings were held by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, out of which 2 were held in Samtskhe-Javakheti (Akhalkalaki, with the participation of Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda cooperators and other stakeholders and in Akhalkalaki Municipality, population from village Kotelia and its adjacent villages); 2 other meetings were held in Kvemo Kartli (Tsalka and Dmanisi Municipalities).

The main topic of discussion at all meetings was “Rational use of state-owned grasslands in highlands”, construction of a dairy plant in Akhalkalaki, Tsalka and Dmanisi Municipalities, within the program approved by N265 resolution of May 29, 2017 of the Government of Georgia, conditions of transfer to cooperatives and stakeholders and business consulting.

About 20 people took part in the meeting in Akhalkalaki and about 35 in village Kotelia of Akhalkalaki Municipality, mostly shareholders. In Dmanisi, about 25 shareholders and farmers took part in the meeting, and in Tsalka about 20 people attended the meeting.

### **2.1.1.4 Creating favorable environment for business development, providing support for the implementation of state programs, supporting strengthening of cross-boundary economic links**

Information meetings were held by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development in the regions of Georgia, including municipalities with compact settlements of ethnic minorities, namely, in Pankisi gorge and village Iormughanlo, where the program “Enterprise Georgia” was presented and participants were informed about the terms of participation in the programs.

#### **Additional Activity**

Within the industrial part of financial accessibility component of the state program “Enterprise Georgia” in Samtskhe –Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions, a new Agreement was signed in 2019 regarding 22 hotels and 15 enterprise projects. The total investment of these 37 projects exceeds 107 million GEL, and the loans issued by commercial banks exceed 56 million GEL. Within the framework of the projects, 950 new jobs will be created. Within the program “Co-financing mechanism to support small and family hotel industry” the cost of the funded projects in Kakheti (10 projects) and Samtskhe-Javakheti (14 projects) amounted to 62.4 thousand GEL.

### **2.1.1.5 Providing support to micro and small businesses in regions compactly settled with ethnic minorities**

Micro and small businesses support program was not implemented in 2019.

#### **Additional Activity**

Activities implemented by LEPL “Georgian National Tourism Administration” in 2019

- ❖ Two trainings were conducted in Marneuli on hotel service skills; about 60 people, employed in the sphere of tourism were retrained;
- ❖ In Pankisi gorge 8 hiking trails were marked.

During 2019 the LEPL “Agency for Innovations and Technologies” carried out the following activities:

- ❖ Issued 115 vouchers for internet connections in Municipalities settled with ethnic minorities, namely in Adigeni, Akhalkalaki, Akhaltsikhe, Akhmeta, Dmanisi, Ninotsminda and Tsalka.
- ❖ Conducted trainings in E-literacy for local entrepreneurs that were attended by 86 entrepreneurs. The trainings were held in the following Municipalities: Adigeni, Akhalkalaki, Akhaltsikhe, Akhmeta, Gardabani, Tetrtskharo, Marneuli.

#### **2.1.1.6 Organizing information meetings in municipalities with ethnic minority settlements to familiarize them with social programs**

Two information meetings were held in two Municipalities of Kvemo Kartli region in Marneuli and Dmanisi, densely populated with ethnic minorities, organized by the Social Protection Policy Division of Policy Department of the Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories of Georgia, Labor, Health and Social Affairs in coordination with Marneuli and Dmanisi municipality Mayors. The meetings served familiarization of the population with social programs. Apart from that, the Office of State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality organized information campaign to promote social programs. Four meetings were held in Samtskhe-Javakheti region with the participation of the Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories of Georgia, Labor, Health and Social Affairs.

#### **2.1.1.7 Organizing information meetings together with NGOs to familiarize population with economic services envisaged in the budget.**

Tbilisi City Assembly did not carry out the planned activity during the year.

#### **2.1.1.8 Introduce 2019-2020 Action plan and economic policy of the municipality to ethnic minority representatives of Batumi “House of Friendship”**

The activity planned by Batumi Municipality City Hall was not implemented during the year.

#### **2.1.1.9 Infrastructural works: installation of outer lighting, cleaning-rehabilitation works of drainage system of headwater construction and fencing, asphalt road paving of internal roads, building pedestrian bridge, rehabilitation of roads**

Several infrastructural projects were implemented in 2019 in **Kakheti region** compactly settled with ethnic minorities:

##### **Akhmeta Municipality:**

- ❖ Municipal development fund: 1 project - 400 000 GEL;
- ❖ State budget: 1 project- 75854 GEL;
- ❖ Regional development fund: 3 projects - 494 598 GEL;
- ❖ Village support program: 16 projects - 116 705 GEL;
- ❖ Local budget: 4 projects - 46458 GEL.

##### **Dedoplistskharo Municipality:**

- ❖ Local budget, Village support program: 3 projects - 53 000 GEL

#### **Telavi Municipality**

- ❖ Regional development fund: 2 projects - 500 200 GEL;

#### **Lagodekhi Municipality:**

- ❖ Regional development fund: 6 projects - 1142349 GEL ;
- ❖ Local budget 1 project - 15372 GEL ;
- ❖ Village support program: 14 projects - 187309 GEL.

#### **Sagarejo Municipality:**

- ❖ Village support program: 12 projects - 198100 GEL

#### **Kvareli Municipality:**

- ❖ Village support program: 6 projects - 79531 GEL,
- ❖ Local budget: 3 projects - 110698 GEL.

In 2019, the department of Spatial Planning, Construction, and Architecture and Monument Protection of Kakheti region issued 70 permissions for construction to ethnic minority representatives, which makes up 65% of total requests.

Several infrastructural projects were implemented in Kvemo Kartli region, in villages settled by ethnic minorities, including improvement of road infrastructure, construction-rehabilitation of schools, outpatient's clinics, as well as other projects within the framework of the village support program:

#### **Gardabani Municipality**

The total cost of infrastructural works in villages populated with ethnic minorities amounted to - 2 582143GEL

- ❖ Regional development fund - 983168GEL;
- ❖ Municipal costs - 1367501GEL
- ❖ Village support program - 231 474GEL;

#### **Bolnisi Municipality**

In 2019 75 infrastructural projects were implemented in Bolnisi Municipality in villages populated with ethnic minorities, the total cost of which amounted to - 3 942 8196 GEL.

- ❖ Funds allotted from local budget - 1 600 4856 GEL;
- ❖ From regional development fund - 1 552 680 GEL;
- ❖ State budget- 589 834 GEL;
- ❖ Village support program- 1 034 217 GEL.

#### **Dmanisi Municipality**

In 2019 59 infrastructural projects were implemented in Dmanisi municipality in villages populated with ethnic minorities, the total cost of which amounted to - 5 861 532.

- ❖ Local budget - 1 827 848 GEL;
- ❖ Regional development fund- 2 687 592 GEL;
- ❖ State budget - 155 576 GEL;
- ❖ Village support program-1 190 516 GEL.

### **Tetrtskharo Municipality**

In 2019, 8 infrastructural projects were implemented in Tetrtskharo municipality villages (7 villages) populated with ethnic minorities –total cost - 1 773 000 GEL;

- ❖ Regional development fund- 1 667 000 GEL;
- ❖ Village support program- 106 000 GEL;

### **Tsalka Municipality**

The total sum spent in 19 villages populated with ethnic minorities in Tsalka Municipality on infrastructural projects amounted to 4 455 959 GEL;

- ❖ State budget - 1 679 319 GEL;
- ❖ Local budget- 2 776 40 GEL.

### **Marneuli Municipality**

50 infrastructural projects implemented in 2019 in Marneuli amounted to 19 044 606 GEL.

- ❖ 77 projects were implemented within the frames of village support program with total cost of 11 953 000 GEL;
- ❖ Local budget - 48 080 GEL;
- ❖ Regional development fund - 1 232 000 GEL.

#### **2.1.1.10 Creating favorable business environment, supporting implementation of state programs and strengthening of cross-boundary economic links**

Samtskhe-Javakheti regional administration is involved in information campaigns promoting state programs for business support. In this regard the programs such as “Enterprise Georgia”, “Plan your Future” should be mentioned. Presentation of these programs were delivered 3 times during the year with the support of regional administration.

#### **2.1.1.11 Implementation of infrastructural projects**

For the purpose of improvement of the life standard of the population in Samtskhe-Javakheti region, infrastructural projects having been implemented, funded by the state and local budgets. The projects include building and rehabilitation of roads, drinking water supply systems, bridges, mini stadiums, schools and pre-school institutions and other facilities.

In the reporting period, 144 projects were implemented in administrative units populated with ethnic minorities, that were worth 19 813 000 GEL.

- ❖ Akhaltsikhe municipality –41 projects –total cost - 7 109 172GEL;
- ❖ Akhalkalaki municipality - 58projects - total cost 6 210 611 GEL
- ❖ Ninotsminda municipality- 44projects -total cost - 5 818 434 GEL;
- ❖ Aspindza municipality- 1project – total cost - 674 784 GEL.

### **Objective: 2.1.2 Providing support for the improvement of social conditions of ethnic minorities**

#### **2.1.2.1 Information meetings aiming at familiarization with social programs and services envisaged by the city budget**

The activity planned by Tbilisi city assembly was not implemented during the year.

#### **2.1.2.2 Providing assistance to socially underprivileged ethnic minority families**

Ethnic minority representations at the “House of Friendship” provided assistance to socially disadvantaged households at different religious events. Using a certain sum from Batumi municipality local budget, the families were given food products. Namely, in the second and fourth quarters of 2019, 326 families from Russian, Ukrainian and German ethnic groups, were given a one-time assistance.

#### **2.1.2.3 Implementation of infrastructural projects**

##### **Rehabilitation of infrastructure <sup>8</sup>**

Implementing various projects, including infrastructural projects contributed in improvement of social conditions of ethnic minorities. The roads were rehabilitated, outer lightings were installed and internal roads were built, irrigation system was rehabilitated, etc.

##### ***Samtskhe-Javakheti region***

- ❖ 38 projects were funded in Samtskhe- Javakheti region municipalities (Akhaltsikhe, Adigeni, Akhalkalaki, Borjomi, Ninotsminda) from the fund of the projects that were to be implemented in Georgian regions, the total cost of which amounted to 24 413 867 GEL, and the Regional Development Fund allotted - 21 635 672 GEL;
- ❖ 1 project was funded by the Development Fund of Highland Settlements by - 687 718 GEL, among them Mountain Fund amounted to 653 332 GEL

##### ***Kvemo-Kartli region***

- ❖ 67 projects were funded in Kvemo-Kartli region municipalities (Rustavi, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Gardabani, Tetritskharo, Mrneuli, Tsalka) from the funds of the projects to be implemented in regions of Georgia, with total amount of 44 715 268 GEL, among them, the sum from RDF was 38 539 369GEL.

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<sup>8</sup>See Annex 1

### ***Kakheti region***

- ❖ 28 projects were funded in Kakheti region municipalities (Akhmeta, Lagodekhi) from the funds of the projects to be implemented in regions of Georgia, with total cost of 10 135 576 GEL, among them, the sum from RDF was 9 459 892 GEL.

#### **2.1.2.4 Providing equal access to the use of social municipal programs and their even distribution among ethnic minorities**

Along with state healthcare programs for Samtskhe-Javakheti population, local self-governing bodies carry out other social programs as well. During 2019, 22790 beneficiaries received the pecuniary aid in the amount of 2 234 591 Gel in Ninotsminda and Akhaltsikhe Municipalities. Among them, 8145 ethnic minority representatives received 1 220 285 GEL. Namely:

- ❖ Local self-governing body in Ninotsminda Municipality provided financial assistance to 1370 beneficiaries in the amount of 366 000 GEL, among them 1020 were ethnic minority representatives, who received the assistance in the amount of 258 000 GEL.
- ❖ In Akhalkalaki Municipality, 1658 beneficiaries received financial assistance in the amount of 736580 GEL, among them 1359 are the representatives of ethnic minorities who received the assistance in the amount of 61362 GEL.
- ❖ In Akhaltsikhe Municipality, 19762 beneficiaries received financial assistance in the amount of 1132011 GEL, among them 5730 are the representatives of ethnic minorities who received the assistance in the amount of 350923 GEL.

#### **Additional activities carried out beyond the action plan:**

Within the framework of municipality social assistance program in Kakheti region, over 1100 beneficiaries received financial assistance in the amount of 284 903 GEL

- ❖ Within the social assistance program in 2019, 173 representatives of ethnic minorities living on the territory of the municipality were rendered medical assistance, (58 944 GEL), and 32 beneficiaries received social assistance in the amount of 5710 GEL.
- ❖ In 2019, 57 658 GEL was spent from healthcare and social program budget on ethnic minorities in **Telavi Municipality**;
- ❖ **In Lagodekhi Municipality** 376 representatives of ethnic minorities enjoyed healthcare and social benefits, the sum amounted to 53 663 75 GEL;
- ❖ **In Sagarejo Municipality** the social programs for socially disadvantaged ethnic minorities covered the expenses of outpatient treatment, operations, medication and rehabilitation co-financed by 50-70%. 119 citizens enjoyed the benefits. The total sum spent amounted to 76545 GEL (oncological patients also received the assistance);
- ❖ **In Khvareli Municipality** 95 representatives of ethnic minorities enjoyed the benefits provided by healthcare and social protection program, the total sum spent amounted to 21263 GEL.



## Strategic goal 3

### **Providing access to high quality education and improving the knowledge of the state language**

In the reporting period special attention was devoted to providing an access to high quality education and improvement of the state language knowledge, as one of the important instruments of civic integration. Ethnic minorities have access to all levels of education (preschool, general, higher and vocational), including in their native language. There are 207 non-Georgian public schools and 84 non-Georgian language sectors in Georgia.

Within the purpose of the strategy, numerous activities and programs have been carried out serving the implementation of the following priority goals:

- ❖ Increasing the opportunities of preschool education and improvement the quality of general education for ethnic minority representatives;
- ❖ Providing access to higher education;
- ❖ Improving access to vocational and adult education;
- ❖ Improvement of the knowledge of the state language.

#### **Interim goal: 3.1 Increasing access to preschool education for ethnic minority representatives;**

**Objective: 3.1.1 Development of preschool educational program, creating models of teaching resources, preparing professional development programs for caregiver- pedagogues and administrative personnel**

**3.1.1.1 To continue the second stage of the construction of preschool educational institution in Tsalka Municipality villages (completion of construction and equipment)**

Construction works of preschool buildings in Tsalka Municipality villages are over. 4 kindergartens have been built.

**3.1.1.2 To carry out the second stage of construction works of the kindergarten in Gardabani – Aghatakli-Kharatakli. Also planning and development of preschool readiness program in KvemoKartliMunicipalities.** 5 kindergartens have been built in Gardabani Municipality. One kindergarten is being built.

**3.1.1.3 Providing support for creating non-Georgian groups in preschool educational institutions and teaching state language. Equipping non-Georgian kindergartens with material-technical resources. Creating proper conditions for studying and upbringing.**

During the year 7 preschool institutions were rehabilitated in Samtskhe-Javakheti region with local budget funding in Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda Municipalities. Total cost of works amounted to 1 121 348 GEL.

**Additional Activities:**

12 kindergartens were fully rehabilitated in Bolnisi Municipality. In 11 kindergartens there is an integrated learning process in Georgian language. In villages Nakhiduri, Mukhrana and Bolnisi daycare school readiness centers are functioning.

In preschool institutions – in Pankisi Gorge kindergartens (11 kindergartens and 17 groups) “School readiness program” is widely used and will be working this year too.

**Interim goal: 3.2 Increasing access to high quality general education in state and native languages**

**Objective: 3.2.1 Improving national curriculum and educational resources to support high quality bilingual education**

**3.2.1.1 Holding national school Olympiad in Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian languages**

80 Azerbaijani, 126 Armenian and 180 Russian speaking pupils took part in the second tour of national Olympiad for 2018-2019 academic year organized by LEPL National Assessment and Examinations Center. 15 Armenian and 46 Russian speaking pupils took part in the third tour of the Olympiad.

**3.2.1.2 Conducting school graduation exams in Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages**

From 2019 all graduation exams at school were cancelled (complying with amendment to the law on “General Education” on April 8, 2019) and “approval of rules and terms of conducting graduation exams” was declared void following the Order N48/n of April 7, 2011 of the Ministry of Education and Science.

**Objective: 3.2.2 Support upgrading of the qualification of non-Georgian language school teachers**

**3.2.2.1 Conducting the examination of the subject, confirmation of the subject and professional competencies in Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages only for applicants who teach in non-Georgian language schools**

In the exam conducted by the LEPL- National Assessment and Examination Center, 2126 applicants took the test in subject and professional competencies in summer, out of whom

- ❖ 880 chose to do the test in Azerbaijani language;
- ❖ 262 – in Russian language;
- ❖ 984 – in Armenian language.

Besides, applicants had an opportunity to take the subject exam and subject and professional competence testing in the autumn of 2019. Consequently, the statistics of the applicants looks as follows:

- ❖ 672 applicants chose to do the test in Azerbaijani language;
- ❖ 140- in Russian language;
- ❖ 753- in Armenian language.

In the reporting period, LEPL- National Assessment and Examination Center implemented non-Georgian school support program that aimed at facilitation of professional development of ethnic minority non-Georgian school teachers and the teaching-learning process, also improvement of informal teaching practice. The program objectives are:

- ❖ To ensure quality education in state language for ethnic minorities at general education level;

- ❖ To ensure training of qualified state language teachers in municipalities compactly settled with ethnic minorities;
- ❖ To support integration of ethnic minority pupils into common cultural-educational space through informal education.

Within the framework of the program, during 2019, in 175 non-Georgian schools in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti, 285 teachers were sent for 2018-2019 academic year to fill the staff shortage (121 consultant teachers, 85 assistant teachers and 77 bilingual assistant teachers in different subjects envisaged by teaching plan). In 2019-2020 the number of program participants changed: in 169 schools there are 121 consultant teachers, 75 assistant teachers and 69 bilingual assistant teachers.

Municipality	Number of schools covered	N of participants	N of consultant-teachers	Assistant teachers	Bilingual assistant teachers
<b>Akhalkalaki</b>	24	31	17	8	6
<b>Akhaltzikhe</b>	11	13	1	9	3
<b>Akhmeta</b>	1	2	0	2	0
<b>Bolnisi</b>	19	32	15	9	8
<b>Gardabani</b>	14	29	10	13	6
<b>Dmanisi</b>	4	5	3	2	0
<b>Lagodekhi</b>	2	3	0	2	1
<b>Sagarejo</b>	4	7	4	1	2
<b>Tsalka</b>	8	11	6	2	3
<b>Ninotsminda</b>	23	30	13	3	14
<b>Marneuli</b>	59	101	52	23	26
<b>Total</b>	169	265	121	75	69

#### Additional Activities:

Within the framework of the “**Non-Georgian Language School Support**” (March-July) the first stream of non-Georgian school local teachers in Samtskhe –Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti region were provided with the state language learning course in which 360 teachers took part (A 1 level -150 participants; A 2 level – 89; A 2+ level -46; B1 level-21).

In October 2019 the state language learning course started for the second stream of teachers. At this stage, the course was taken by 349 participants.

Within the scope of the program, three long-term training modules of Georgian language course as a second language was developed (it included reading, listening-speaking, and writing skills). The mentioned training modules were delivered to non-Georgian local teachers of Georgian as a second language. The first module -Reading was done by 303 teachers. The second module- Listening-Speaking was done by 216 teachers and the third module – Writing was attended by 270 teachers.

Within the scope of the program, a training module of Georgian - as a second language was developed for subject competency test which was administered in October of the current year for teachers of local non-

Georgian schools who teach Georgian as a second language in Samtskhe –Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions.

In the direction of informal education, the activities implemented by program participants in 2019 covered about 11 000 pupils:

- ❖ School partnership projects;
- ❖ Cognitive projects;
- ❖ Literary circles;
- ❖ Quiz: What? Where? When?
- ❖ Book-lovers' clubs;
- ❖ Project “Movie at school” ;
- ❖ Calligraphy circle;
- ❖ Learning and social projects;
- ❖ Civic clubs;
- ❖ Media literacy clubs;
- ❖ Free lessons;
- ❖ Hiking;
- ❖ Drama circles;

**Interim goal: 3.3 Increasing the access to higher education**

**Objective: 3.2.1 Supporting preferential policy**

**3.3.1.1 Providing the availability of general aptitude test at unified national exams in Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages**

**Financing students who are enrolled only on the basis of general aptitude test results at unified national exams taken in Abkhazian, Ossetian, Azerbaijani and Armenian languages, who should further do Georgian language preparatory program in order to continue with Bachelor's course, teacher training integrated Bachelor's-Master's course, medical/ dentist degree program.**

“The provision on conducting national exams and approval of educational grant awarding rule” approved by the Order N 19/m of February 18, 2011 of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, was amended on March 19, 2019, according to which in order to be enrolled in Georgian Language preparatory program, except for Art or Sport or Military higher educational program, it is obligatory to take general aptitude test at the unified national exams only in Azerbaijani or Armenian languages, or Ossetian or Abkhazian languages.

Below we see how many took unified national exams in 2019 and which languages were chosen:

- ❖ General aptitude test in Armenian language - 573 applicants;
- ❖ General aptitude test in Azerbaijani language - 1887 applicants;
- ❖ General aptitude test in Ossetian language -5 applicants;
- ❖ General aptitude test in Abkhazian language -1 applicant;

**Statistical data on applicants who have obtained the right to continue studies after having taken 2019 unified national exams within the Georgian Language Education Program and grant holders:**

Georgian Language Education Program	2019		
	Participated	Obtained the right to continue studies	Received a grant
General aptitude test in Armenian language	573	436	93
General aptitude test in Azerbaijani language	1887	893	96
Ossetian language	5	5	4
Abkhazian language	1	1	1

### 3.3.1.2 Providing information about exams (open door days) to improve access to higher education for ethnic minority representatives.

In 2019 the Center held information meetings in Akhaltsikhe, Marneuli, Lagodekhi, Dmanisi and Ninotsminda Municipalities as well as in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi. Number of beneficiaries was about 1500 school graduates.

### 3.3.1.3 Information campaign for ethnic minority pupils in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions

In the reporting period in regions compactly settled with ethnic minorities (Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti) regional representatives of the information Center on NATO and EU organized 29 meetings with pupils. About 950 pupils of 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade attended the meetings. The aim of the meetings was to inform pupils about the processes of Georgia's integration into NATO and Euro-Atlantic structures. Informational meetings were accompanied by various educational-intellectual activities such as, competitions, quizzes. The winners were awarded with incentive prizes.

### 3.3.1.4 Providing access to higher education within the scope of "1+4 Program" for ethnic minority representatives / ensure involvement into information meetings

Davit Aghmashenebeli National Defense Academy carries out Georgian Language Education Program every academic year. Within the limits of quotas determined by the Georgian Law on "Higher Education", 14 representatives of ethnic minorities are enrolled in the program every year, among them: 6 ethnic Azerbaijani students, 6 ethnic Armenian students, 1 Abkhazian and 1 Ossetian. For 2019-2020 academic year, 11 students have been enrolled in Georgian Language Education Program, out of them 6 were Azerbaijani language speakers, 5- Armenians.

The Academy was involved in information campaigns conducted in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of the reporting year for ethnic minority pupils and participated in information meetings held in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions. Out of 5 meetings, 4 were with young people held in Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti (Dmanisi, Bolnisi and Lagodekhi Municipalities) and 1 -in Samtskhe-Javakheti region, Ninotsminda Municipality.

### 3.3.1.5 Implementation of the project "1+4 internship program on the access to information about opportunities of higher and vocational education"

Within the scope of the project of the Office of State Minister “Providing access to higher and vocational education for ethnic minorities”, peer-educators held 172 meetings in 177 villages populated with ethnic minorities (Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti). School graduates (2752 beneficiaries) were informed about the opportunities for receiving higher and vocational education, as well as education in Europe. In addition they were informed about 1+4 preferential policy. The project is implemented with the support of UN Association Georgia and “Center for Civil Integration and Inter-Ethnic Relations” (CCIIR).

**Interim goal: 3.4 Providing vocational and adult education**

**Objective: 3.4.1 To increase participation of ethnic minorities in vocational educational institutions; ensure the access to state language learning for adult population**

**3.4.1.1 Conducting professional testing in Russian, Azerbaijani or Armenian languages, provided that the applicant chooses vocational education programs only based on the professional education program framework document.**

Since 2015, ethnic minority representatives have been able to take professional testing in Armenian, Russian or Azerbaijani languages and get enrolled in educational institutions conducting professional programs with state funding. After the enrollment they continue studying the Georgian Language Module before they start professional education. On the basis of non-Georgian language testing, 90 persons expressed desire to take professional testing for 2019 spring semester in Armenian, Russian or Azerbaijani languages. 24 applicants out of 90, were enrolled in the vocational educational Program and got involved in Georgian language module. 122 persons applied for tests in the above mentioned languages for 2019 autumn semester, and 52 were enrolled.

Besides, with the purpose of increasing access to vocational education for ethnic minorities, activities were started in Akhalkalaki (design works) and Marneuli (construction procedures) Municipalities for the development of vocational educational institutions.

As for statistical data on professional testing of Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian speaking applicants, in the spring (May) of 2019, the professional testing administered by LEPL-National Assessment and Examination Center was taken by:

- ❖ 11 Azerbaijani – speaking applicants;
- ❖ 9 Armenian- speaking applicants;
- ❖ 35 Russian- speaking applicants.

The data on test takers in the autumn of 2019:

- ❖ 19 Azerbaijani speaking applicants;
- ❖ 66 Russian speaking applicants
- ❖ 8 Armenian speaking applicants.

**3.4.1.2 Offering Georgian Language learning courses to adult representatives of ethnic minorities in order to overcome language barrier**

To provide access to learning Georgian language, Tbilisi City Assembly has been carrying out “Georgian Language Courses” within the current project in the “House of Friendship”. In 2019-2020 academic year there are about 50 students on the course.

### **3.4.1.3 Offering free Georgian Language Course to ethnic minority representatives within the activities of Batumi “House of Friendship”**

Batumi municipality city hall was unable to carry out the planned activity during the year.

### **3.4.1.4 The event dedicated to the Georgian Language Day**

Competition entitled “I Write in Georgian” was held for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade pupils of non-Georgian schools and sectors initiated by the State Minister’s Office for Reconciliation and Civic Equality which aimed at promotion of the state language, development of writing competencies in state language of ethnic minority pupils and their encourage to learn the language. Three winners of the competition were awarded certificates and gifts. The event was carried out in cooperation with Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and with the support the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia.

### **3.4.1.5 Meetings in general education schools, in Akhaltsikhe School of Vocational Education “Opizari” with the aim to inform pupils about the region’s social and economic development strategy and action plan as well as labor market and professions that are in demand. – No information**

### **3.4.1.6 To provide state language course for non-Georgian speaking convicts**

The survey on educational needs in penitentiary institutions has revealed that there has been a demand on teaching Georgian language to non-Georgian speaking beneficiaries. During 2019, 86 beneficiaries were involved in learning Georgian language.

#### **Activities conducted in the reporting period by Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration**

- ❖ Within the framework of the State Language Teaching Program, a textbook “Communication Georgian” was developed;
- ❖ 1342 representatives of ethnic minorities (84 groups) enrolled in 2018 and 2206 ethnic minority representatives (162 groups) enrolled in 2019 completed the course of the State Language Teaching Program in 10 regional education centers in three regions of Georgia: Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe – Javakheti and Kakheti;
- ❖ 276 groups were made up, out of which 207 mobile groups were in 4 cities, 66 villages and in 7 military bases. 3545 ethnic minority representatives were enrolled.
- ❖ The final exams of the State Language Teaching Program were conducted in 10 regional education centers (testing-interviews) attended by the representatives of Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration and examiners;
- ❖ The school carries out the state language teaching program in the field training base of Georgian armed forces for ethnic minority representatives in a compulsory military service undergoing initial combat training at Algeti, Vaziani, Osiauri, Khtsisi, Kojori, Orkhevi and Vartsikhe Military bases. 541 recruits - representatives of ethnic minorities did A1 level program;

- ❖ On the initiative and with efforts of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia employees of Internal Affairs bodies of Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda Municipalities were actively involved in the program. 24 policeman were trained in total;
- ❖ 7 groups were made up in 4 regional centers and in Tbilisi to train 84 clergymen from ethnic minority community within the framework of Memorandum of Cooperation with LEPL State Agency for Religious Affairs. The Clergymen are actively studying the language at A 1 level;
- ❖ A two-day working meeting was held in Kutaisi with the participation of 60 teachers and 10 administrative workers. The aim of the meeting was to provide information about the implemented changes in the state language program as well as to deliver trainings for teachers and make their assessment;
- ❖ Within the framework of the project “Let’s Learn Georgian” and in cooperation with the “House of Friendship” functioning at Tbilisi city assembly, 3 mobile groups of state language training program were made up for 44 ethnic minority representatives from Tbilisi. The groups will cover A1 and A2 levels in Georgian language.
- ❖ A school, in cooperation with “World Vision International” implemented the project “Teaching the State Language to Foreigners and the Stateless Persons”. 122 persons having temporary accommodation did A1 level training course;
- ❖ Program catalogues, information brochures and other materials were printed;
- ❖ A conference – “The State Language for Civic Integration and the Development of Human Capital in Georgia” was held in Tbilisi. A four-party memorandum on cooperation was signed between Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration, Office of the State Minister, State Department of Language and the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia with an aim to implement training, educational and informational projects to promote the state language among ethnic minorities;
- ❖ A week dedicated to Mother Tongue Day was planned jointly by the Department of Humanitarian Sciences of Tbilisi State University, the Youth Center, PITA and American Language Center. Essay competition was held on the topic “Georgian -My State Language”. 30 students from the State Language Training Program took part in the competition and 7 winners of the calligraphy competition were revealed. The winners were awarded certificates and gifts;
- ❖ A panel picture dedicated to the “Mother Tongue Day” was displayed on the wall of the House of Culture with the support of Akhalkalaki City Hall.
- ❖ With the purpose of state language promotion a film about the school’s successful students was made;
- ❖ The school took part in the event dedicated to the Independence Day of Georgia. The event took place in Veriko Anjaparidze Square in Kutaisi where the textbooks developed by the school were displayed in the pavilion, as well as audio materials on CDs “Learn Georgian with Audio Lessons”, information booklets; the winner of the calligraphy competition delivered a master class.

#### Strategic goal 4

#### Preserving the Culture of Ethnic Minorities and Encouraging Tolerant Environment



**Interim goal 4.1 Reflecting the Role and Importance of Ethnic Minorities in the process of elaboration and implementation of the Cultural Policy**

**Objective 4.1.1 Improving activities aiming at preservation of the culture of ethnic minorities; ensuring coordination with regional and local units**

Implementation of various programs/projects and activities regarding protection/development and popularization of the culture of ethnic minorities and protection of their cultural heritage was continued in the reporting period. For the purpose of preserving cultural identity and further integration, museums and theatres got financial support.

**4.1.1.1 Organizing cultural events**

Various cultural events were organized by the “House of Friendship” of Tbilisi City Assembly during the year. Among them was the celebration of the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Latvian Independence. About 50 guests attended the event.

**4.1.1.2 Celebration of various people`s, cultural and religious festivals of ethnic minorities, as well as their involvement in organizing Georgian traditional, cultural and religious festivals.**

About 15 important ethnic minority cultural events took place during the reporting year organized with the support of Batumi Municipality City Hall and the “House of Friendship”.

**4.1.1.3 Marking anniversaries of public figures (poets, writers), literary soirees with the participation of young people; marking anniversaries of famous artists and arranging exhibitions**

In the current year ethnic Ukrainians took part in the event held in Batumi museum “Ukrainian Autumn” where the works of Georgian and Ukrainian artists were displayed; other events were “Origin of Ukrainian Language”, competition of paintings “Littering” , celebration of Taras Shevchenko’s birthday organized by the “House of Friendship”;

**4.1.1.4 Organizing ethnic minority young artists’ exhibition on the topic “Georgia and Georgians seen with the eyes of youngsters”**

The thematic exhibition was held in support of young artists from ethnic minority community.

**4.1.1.5 Organizing sightseeing tours to cultural monuments for ethnic minorities within the frames of the project “Get to Know Georgia” (excursions, tours).**

About 5 excursions were organized by Batumi Municipality City Hall throughout Georgia on the initiative of various ethnic groups.

**Additional activity:**

15 tours were organized in different parts of Georgia within the project “Travel around Georgia” for ethnic minorities to get them familiar with cultural monuments and sites with the support of Gardabani Municipality, in which 300 beneficiaries took part. Among participants were 80 young representatives of ethnic minorities.

#### **4.1.1.6 - 4.1.1.7 Events dedicated to Nowruz-Bayram, International Refugee Day, literary soirees, sports and cultural events**

Various cultural events, including Novruz-Bayram, literary/poetry soirees, sports events, International Children's Day, exhibitions, public festivals were held in Kvemo Kartli region Municipalities (Gardabnoba, Kosalaroba, Avasoba, Rustavkalakoba).

#### **4.1.1.8 Tolerance Week**

Various events were dedicated to International Tolerance Day in Tetrtskharo and Marneuli Municipalities

#### **4.1.1.9 Events dedicated to the celebration of Women's International Day (3 and 8 March)**

Events dedicated to Women's International Day and Mother's Day were held in Kvemo Kartli region Municipalities, namely, in Gardabani, Bolnisi, Marneuli and Tsalka.

#### **4.1.1.10 Events dedicated to the Independence Day (May 26)**

Events dedicated to the Independence Day were held in Kvemo Kartli region Municipalities - Gardabani, Dmanisi, Marneuli and Tsalka.

#### **4.1.1.11 Ensuring involvement of ethnic minorities in cultural events to be held in the region**

Samtskhe –Javakheti regional administration coordinates the events that favor maintaining the cultural identity of ethnic minorities. In administrative units compactly settled with ethnic minorities clubs, singing and dancing ensembles, music schools are functioning. In Akhalkalaki and Akhaltsikhe there are art schools which regularly take part in local and international exhibitions. In the reporting period many thematic events were held with active participation of ethnic minorities, where various groups of performers demonstrated their culture and traditions. For instance, the events dedicated to the memory of an Armenian poet, festival of Armenian traditional cuisine, exhibitions of crafts and art works, intellectual quizzes, folk dancing festival, sports events, festival "Javakheti Spring", and other.

### **Interim goal 4.2 Protection of the cultural heritage of ethnic minorities and promotion**

#### **Objective: 4.2.1 Protection of material and intangible cultural values of ethnic minorities**

##### **4.2.1.1 Providing support to LEPL organizations' activities of ethnic minorities – performances, tours, exhibitions, publications, concerts**

Annual budget of ethnic minorities' culture LEPL organizations in 2019 was 1 877 700

#### **Museums:**

- ❖ LEPL Davit Baazov Museum of History of Georgian Jews and Georgian-Jewish Relations; budget - 117 500GEL; 26 events held;
- ❖ LEPL Mirza Patali Akhundov Museum of Azerbaijani Culture; budget- 48 000GEL, 24 events held;
- ❖ LEPL Smirnovs' Museum; budget – 6010 GEL; 10 events held.

About 200 events were organized by the above listed museums whose total budget amounted to 206 000 GEL.

#### **Theatres:**

- ❖ **LEPL Heydar Aliyev Tbilisi State Professional Azerbaijani Drama Theatre**

In the reporting period the budget of LEPL Heydar Aliyev Tbilisi State Professional Azerbaijani Drama Theatre annual budget amounted to 175 000 GEL. During the year the theatre had three performances in its repertoire, including two premieres. The theatre took part in theatre festivals in Kazakhstan and Turkey. The total number of spectators was 3 000.

- ❖ **LEPL Alexandre Griboedov Professional Russian Drama Theatre**

The annual budget of the theatre is 1 090 000 GEL. In its repertoire the theatre has 31 plays, including 4 premieres. During the year the Theatre held 152 activities – tours in different regions of Georgia (Akhaltzikhe, Batumi, Tkhivuli, Chiatura) as well as abroad (Armenia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Russia, Germany, Greece, Cyprus).

- ❖ **LEPL Petros Adamyan Armenian Drama Theatre**

The annual budget of the theatre amounted to 400 000 GEL. In its repertoire the theatre had 11 plays, including 6 premieres. The theatre went on tours to different parts of Georgia (Ambrolauri, Akhaltzikhe and Kvemo Kartli villages: Khozhorni, Giulibaghi, Tsopi, Mirzovka, Khacheni). The total number of spectators - 3 000.

#### **4.2.1.2 Competition in support activities promoting cultural identity of ethnic minorities**

**Competition “Promoting Creative Activities to Maintain the Identity of Ethnic Minorities” was held. 10 project proposals were submitted and 6 winners revealed. The total budget of projects amounted to 98 846 GEL.**

Within the framework of competition, 5 albums and 2150 audio discs about the life and work of public figures, the representatives of ethnic minorities were released by winning projects. The Theatre for Young Spectators staged the play “Sara Bara Bzia Bzo” or “I Love You”. The play is based on Abkhazian myths and legends. 800 spectators attended the premiere.

Besides, in June 2019, LEPL National Agency for Cultural Heritage Protection started cataloguing of intangible cultural heritage of Jewish community and held meetings with the representatives of the community, including students of and teachers Georgian-Jewish school. Within the cataloguing activities, the project “Illustrate Jewish Fairy Tales” was implemented (for elementary schoolchildren of Georgian-Jewish school, in which 20 pupils took part); also “My Favorite Festival” (for high school pupils of Georgian-Jewish school; 8 pupils took part).

The first stage of school competition “Advocates of Intangible Cultural Heritage” ended in which pupils of public and private schools of Georgia took part. Among them were schoolchildren from non-Georgian language schools

from regions populated with ethnic minorities (Gorelovka- Russian School; Ninotsminda, village Patara Gondrio-Armenian School; Marneuli Municipality, Zemo Sarali, Jandari – Azerbaijani School).

#### **4.2.1.3 - 4.2.1.4 Cataloguing- research of Polish cultural heritage in Georgia**

The first stage of complex multidisciplinary research and cataloguing program of Polish cultural heritage in Georgia was implemented -buildings designed by Polish architects and engineers, other buildings connected to their life and work were catalogued. The budget for the above works amounted to 94 500 GEL.

#### **4.2.1.5 Projects: “Diverse Georgia” and “Diverse Georgia in Pankisi”**

LEPL Giorgi Leonidze Museum of Georgian Literature implemented a project “Diverse Georgia”. The project was aimed at supporting integration of ethnic minorities, raising awareness among young people and developing their creative skills. The budget of this project amounted to 42 000 GEL. Within the project framework various cultural-educational activities were conducted in 6 Municipalities (Ninotsminda, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Akhmeta) and 7 villages (Duisi, Sakobiano, Jokholo, Shaumiani, Algeti, Eshtia, Tamarisi) populated with ethnic minorities in Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti (Pankisi gorge). 60 different activities were held, including lectures and workshops, celebration of anniversaries, film shows, plays, exhibitions, concerts and literary-musical performances. The events were attended by about 6000 people.

#### **4.2.1.6 Celebration of Nowruz Bayram**

The concluding meeting of Nowruz Bayram week was held on March 21, 2019 in Tbilisi City Assembly. Traditional music was performed. 250 guests attended the event.

#### **4.2.1.7 Exhibition of young Azerbaijani artists living in Georgia**

LEPL Mirza Patali Akhundov Museum of Culture organized a joint exhibition of Georgian and Azerbaijani young artists. 70 guests attended the event.

#### **4.2.1.8 Protecting and preserving intangible cultural heritage of ethnic minorities. Organizing events dedicated to famous representatives of minorities’ culture, holding exhibitions. See 4.1.1.1**

##### **Additional Activity:**

LEPL - “Georgian National Tourism Administration” published 2 catalogues – “Jewish Heritage” and “German Heritage”.

#### **Interim goal: 4.3. Encouraging cultural diversity**

##### **Objective: 4.3.1 Development of intercultural dialogue**

#### **4.3.1.1 The visit of high school pupils of ethnic minorities to administrative buildings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Davit Aghmashenebeli National Academy of Defense**

Participants of “School, Community and Police Cooperation” (SCOPE) Program, including 4 representatives of ethnic minorities visited LEPL-“112” of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on June 19, 2019. And on October 4 of

the same year, the “112”, within the framework of the program “Raising Awareness about the Emergency Number among Pupils” hosted the members of a Cultural-Educational Youth Center “Hayartun”. Among them were 19 high school pupils, the representatives of ethnic minorities.

#### **4.3.1.2 Participation of ethnic minority young representatives in the events organized by an international organization PH International**

The employees of law-enforcement bodies and teachers were delivered a training course on legal culture in 2019. The training was organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in cooperation with an NGO - PH International and was conducted in Ajara, Kakheti, Samegrelo, Imereti, Svaneti, Kvemo Kartli and Guria regions. The trainees shall deliver lessons in legal culture to schoolchildren during 2019-2020.

#### **4.3.1.3 Strengthening educational activities of museums in the regions compactly settled with ethnic minorities, training museum employees and provide assistance in developing educational programs and resources.**

Construction of a new museum building ended in 2019 in Bolnisi. The permanent exhibition of the museum will expose multi ethnic culture of Kvemo Kartli region. Special programs for pupils are being developed in the museum. The opening is planned in 2020. The selected museum employees have been trained and educational programs developed in the regions populated with ethnic minorities.

#### **4.3.1.4 Meetings with school teachers in regions populated with ethnic minorities to familiarize them with museum educational program**

The above activity planned by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia was not implemented during the year.

#### **4.3.1.5 “Teaching Georgian language in the museum” – developing Georgian language teaching programs based on museum collections for the pupils of ethnic minorities both in national museums as well as regional ones on the territories populated with ethnic minorities**

Two programs on “Teaching Georgian Language in Museums” were developed by the National Museum in partnership with Exeter University (Great Britain) and “Arts and Humanities Research Council” (Great Britain) for 8-16 year-old ethnic minority children. The aim of these programs is to get them familiar with Georgian culture and teach Georgian language using the Museum exhibits.

Apart from the activities envisaged by the Action Plan, on May 21, 2019, with the support of the Office of State Minister, Sukhvisibili National Ballet gave a performance to mark the International Cultural Diversity Day (the budget of the event amounted to 13 818 GEL) where they also performed dances of ethnic minorities. Representatives of various international and local organizations, as well as ethnic minorities living in Georgia and accredited diplomatic corps attended the event (about 350 people).

#### **4.3.1.6 Organizing educational – cognitive camps, tours and hiking for ethnic minority pupils**

The activity planned by Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia was not implemented during the year.

#### **4.3.1.7 Delivering field thematic lectures and carrying out programs in the regions settled by ethnic minorities, including “Travel Exhibitions” (for instance, “Multicultural Georgia”) with accompanying educational component in the regions populated with ethnic minorities**

Two travel exhibitions were organized by the National Museum of Georgia in the reporting period in Martkhopi with the intention to present archaeological mobile exhibition to Martkhopi school pupils about the history of archaeology. About 80 pupils took part in the event.

#### **4.3.1.8 Familiarizing ethnic minority representatives (children, adolescents and adults) with museum collections and cultural heritage through tours and special programs**

18 tours were organized for ethnic minority representatives (children, adolescents and adults) to get them familiar with museum collections and cultural heritage through tours and special programs. (1500 people took part).

#### **4.3.1.9 Organizing “Round Table” meetings with the participation of ethnic minority representatives. Implementation of a joint project, in which each party will be able to promote their own culture.**

This activity was not implemented by Tbilisi City Assembly during the reporting year.

#### **4.3.1.10 Supporting the activities of the project called the “Tbilisi House of Friendship”. Organizing joint events with close cooperation of the National Minority Council of Tbilisi City Assembly with the “House of Friendship”** See 4.1.1.1

#### **4.3.1.11 Supporting preservation and development of the culture of ethnic minority representatives**

#### **4.3.1.12 Organizing exhibitions and various competitions, food tasting festivals, craft exhibitions, etc., during “Batumboba” festival reflecting ethnic minorities’ cultural identity and integration into Georgian cultural space**

The central part of 2019 “Batumboba” festival was the events in the “Friendship Alley” where there was a promotional exhibition of Batumi sister cities and ethnic minorities. There were meetings between official delegations of Batumi sister cities and ethnic minority representatives.

#### **4.3.1.13 An educational visit of teachers from Pankisi in Brussels with the aim of raising awareness about integration in European and Euro-Atlantic structures**

A project “Raising awareness about the process of Georgia’s integration in European and Euro-Atlantic structures” for teachers from Pankisi, oriented at raising awareness and increasing their participation was implemented for the first time on the initiative of Information Center on NATO and European Union and the Office of State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, with financial support of EU delegation. The first stage of the project was implemented at the end of December, 2018, in Tbilisi, during which teachers participating in the project were provided with a two-day seminar on the issues of European Integration. 20 teachers and headmistresses from Pankisi gorge public schools took part in the project where they acquired information about the process of Georgia’s integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures and discussed some urgent issues connected with it. At the second stage of the project, on February 3-7, 2019, all participants travelled to Brussels on an educational visit to get familiar with the working principles of European and Euro-Atlantic structures on

the site. Within the framework of the visit, participants had meetings in European Union structures and the NATO Headquarters as well as in educational institutions of Belgium where they had an opportunity to share European practices of educational system. The project was covered in the media.

#### **4.3.1.14 Photo-exhibition “Multi-ethnic Georgia” to be held for ethnic minorities**

Four activities were carried out in 2019 in the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia – photo-exhibitions, concerts, presentation of books. There was held a photo-exhibition of an Azerbaijani photographer, Shakhvalad Eivaz in the exhibition hall. The event hosted 200 guests.

#### **Additional activity**

The evening dedicated to 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an Armenian poet Hovanes Tumanian and a composer Komitas was held in the National Library exhibition hall on February 19. 80 guests took part in the event.

On June 20 the exhibition hall of the National Library hosted the fashion show of Circassian traditional stylized attire by designer Mila Ardan. 150 guests were present.

#### **4.3.1.15 It is planned to provide a book fund for ethnic minorities in non-Georgian schools**

The campaign of the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia “Equilibrium” delivered books to village population in Bolnisi municipality.

#### **4.3.1.16 Planning educational excursions to National Library for ethnic minority representatives living in Georgia**

Schoolchildren from villages Irganchai and Savaneti of Bolnisi Municipality went on an excursion to the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia

#### **4.3.1.17 Conduct training for ethnic minority representatives on using library resources**

The activity planned by the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia was not implemented during the year.

#### **4.3.1.20 Holding multi-ethnic art festival “Under one sky- dialogue between cultures”**

Multi-ethnic art festival “Under one sky- dialogue between cultures” was held in Lagodekhi and in Marneuli during the reporting period, where 210 young people representatives of ethnic minorities presented pieces of folklore and classical music.

#### **4.3.1.21 State inter-agency commission sessions**

The report on the implementation of Action Plan 2018 of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2019 Action Plan has been prepared and presented to the state inter-agency commission as well as the Minority Council at the Public Defender’s Office.

Interim report on the evaluation of 2015-2018 Action Plan of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration prepared by independent experts with the coordination of the State Minister’s Office was presented to the governmental commission.

Inter-agency commission session was held with the coordination of the State Minister's Office for Reconciliation and Civic Equality at which the working version of interim evaluation of the document on "2015-2020 Action Plan of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration" was presented. The third conclusion about Georgia prepared by the advisory committee within the scope of the Framework Convention for the protection of National Minorities was discussed. The subject of discussion was the public administration reform: new methodology and procedures of development of strategic documents. The session ended with a discussion.

#### **4.3.1.22 Meetings of thematic working groups of Inter-agency Commission**

The session of a thematic group was held within the framework of inter-agency commission's work on the topic of "Supporting small and vulnerable ethnic minorities". The experts, the representatives of NGOs and ethnic minorities discussed the challenges and opportunities, opinions, proposals and recommendations on the protection of ethnic minority rights and in general, civic integration process.

#### **4.3.1.23 Carrying out events dedicated to the International Day for Tolerance**

The event dedicated to the International Day for Tolerance and Human Rights Protection was organized by the Office of State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality. The Office of State Minister announced a photo and media competition entitled "Our Diversity is our Wealth" where the winners were revealed and awarded with certificates and memorable gifts.

#### **4.3.1.24 Holding events dedicated to Independence Day (May 26)**

An interesting and diverse program dedicated to the Independence Day, organized by the Office of State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality was implemented in Marneuli and Akhalkalaki - concerts were held, children's spaces / exhibitions arranged. Ethnic minority representatives living in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe – Javakheti regions took active part in the events.

#### **4.3.1.25 Holding the event dedicated to the Women's International Day**

The activity planned by the State Minister's Office for Reconciliation and Civic Equality was not implemented during the year.

#### **4.3.1.26 Preserving the culture of ethnic minorities and support its development (See 4.1.1.11)**

##### **Additional activities:**

- ❖ During the reported period, the Office of State Minister prepared a series of video clips within the project "Get to know Georgia" to introduce successful and talented ethnic minority fellow citizens to the society. Video clips were uploaded on the webpage of the Office of State Minister and were presented to representatives of international and non-governmental organizations and diplomatic missions.
- ❖ The Office of State Minister planned a cultural- educational tour and brought pupils (12 pupils, 3 teachers) from village Tsopi, Marneuli municipality to Tbilisi.
- ❖ Meetings aimed at the identification of the needs of population in Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe –Javakheti and Kakheti regions were held with the support of the Office of State Minister. Representatives of legislative bodies and local self-government who attended the meetings discussed problems and existing situation in the regions. Ethnic minority representatives spoke about their specific needs.



### **Additional activities implemented alongside the action plan:**

There are 5 public and 2 basic schools functioning in Pankisi gorge, where about 1400 children get education. During 2019, on the initiative of Akhmeta municipality City Hall Youth Service, pupils from the public school of Pankisi gorge took part in the following projects: Media project “Etalon”, School Sports Olympiad, Quiz show “What, Where, When?”, municipal and regional tours of “Wits and Humor Competitions”, Sports week of Europe, hiking, volunteer clean-ups, and other entertaining and cultural events. Youth Service of the City Hall selected young leaders’ initiative groups consisting of 5 members each in all administrative units of Akhmeta municipality, including in all four administrative units in Pankisi gorge who planned and implemented the following activities: memorial evening dedicated to the national poet and public speaker Gabriel Garashvili (from village Sakobiano), clean-up campaign, festival of colors, sports activity – judo (villages Duisi and Jokholo). 20 leader children were trained in writing projects; within the framework of the project – “Develop your region – your city” by Independent Children and Student’s Union, Amina Khangoshvili from Pankisi together with other participants went to Cappadocia (funded by the same service of a City Hall).

On the basis of Akhmeta municipality Art school in village Jokholo a branch of the art school was opened – Applied Arts Circle, also drawing, painting, sculpting, composition circles were added. International Day for Protection of Children was marked with a gala concert and the exhibition of children’s artworks. Participants were awarded diplomas.

There is a music school in village Duisi, where children receive education in classical music.

Non-entrepreneurial (Non-commercial) Legal Entity – Akhmeta Cultural Center: four culture houses are functioning in Pankisi gorge (Duisi, Jokholo, Omalo, Sakobiano), one museum (Pankisi Ethnographic Museum), five libraries (Duisi, Jokholo, Khaltsani, Omalo, Sakobiano) and the Dance and Singing Ensemble “Pankisi” on the basis of the municipality. During 2019, the book fund was renewed, museum collection was refilled, and various cultural-entertaining activities were carried out: the event dedicated to Spring and Mother’s Day (Duisi Culture House, in March), Cultural Diversity Day (Pankisi gorge, Khadori, in July). Local choreographic-folk ensembles and individual performers took part in the above events.

Due attention was paid to the establishment of healthy lifestyle among young generation. In 2018, Pankisi sportspeople took part in scheduled and regional and international tournaments in following sports: judo, Greek-Roman, athletics, rugby, kick-boxing, football. About 350 children are engaged in the above sports activities:

- ❖ On the basis of **Non-entrepreneurial (Non-commercial) Legal Entity - Football School “Bakhtrioni”** four football teams are functioning in Pankisi gorge (in villages: Duisi, Jokholo, Birkiani, Omalo), where four coaches train about 80 children.
- ❖ **Non-entrepreneurial (Non-commercial) Legal Entity –Zviadauri Judo School-** three large wrestling gyms are functioning in the gorge (in villages: Duisi, Sakobiano, Dumasturi) where about 120 children are training in different groups. In 2019, the beginner sportspeople took part in tournaments at all levels - local, regional and international. On the basis of **Non-entrepreneurial (Non-commercial) Legal Entity-Complex Sports School**, in 2019, four sports groups were functioning in Pankisi gorge (kick-boxing, Greek-Roman wrestling and athleticism where 8 coaches train about 150 children. With the purpose of promoting healthy lifestyle, it was planned to improve material-technical base, (with the consideration of the school budget), purchase of sports equipment and participation in all tournament following the school sports schedule.

Representatives of ethnic minorities in **Dedoplistskhara municipality** living in villages Sabatlo and Choeti actively participated in cultural events organized by the municipality such as festivals and celebrations dedicated to the Independence Day of Georgia, May 26.

During 2019 in Telavi Municipality about 70 youngsters, the representatives of ethnic minorities took part in various sports and youth events organized by Sports and Youth Department of Telavi Municipality: school sports Olympiad; intellectual quiz program “What, Where, When?”; Olympiad “Live with Sport”; “Archeological camp in Gonio-Apsaros Museum-Reserve”.

Volleyball section of Non-entrepreneurial (Non-commercial) Legal Entity–“Sports Clubs Union” is functioning on the basis of a public school in village Kharajala where 27 youngsters are training. Non-entrepreneurial (Non-commercial) Legal Entity – “The Football School” has a football section, where 28 young people are training. In NCLE “Telavi Municipality Wrestling School in Telavi” 3 young persons are training in arm-wrestling. In Telavi Municipality music schools 8 pupils belong to ethnic minorities. In Telavi Municipality Georgian Folk Dance and Singing Ensemble 1 pupil is from ethnic minority community, and in NCLE – “Telavi Youth House” 4 representatives of ethnic minorities receive education. In village Kharajala there is a library containing 2 900 literary publications, both for adults and children in Georgian, Azerbaijani and Russian languages. Also there is a preschool educational institution, where in 2019 were 204 children. 11 employees of the institution are ethnic minority representatives.

The following cultural events were held in **Lagodekhi Municipality** in 2019:

March 21-22, village Kabali – “Nowruz Bayram”

April 14, village Kabali – youth activity

September 23-30- population from Heretiskari and Arashperani took part in volleyball match during “European Sports Week”.

October 15, village Arashperani –local festivity “Kostaoba”

October 19, village Heretiskari –festival “Ajara Day”

July 5-6, project “Together to Healthy Life” – tournaments in mini football and volleyball with participation of Kabali and Heretiskari population.

#### **Cultural events carried out by Sagarejo Municipality in 2019:**

- ❖ Sports event – mini football match “Friendship Cup”, in which ethnic minority representatives took part together with their Georgian peers; the event was held on the sports ground of a public school in village Lambalo;
- ❖ The event dedicated to the Independence Day of Georgia was held on May 26. Festive march was held at the memorial plaque of heroes who fell victims in the fight for Georgia’s independence. The event was crowned by a concert in the Culture House.
- ❖ On April 9, the citizens laid a wreath at the memorial of fighters for the freedom of two countries in Iormughanlo (in Tbilisi –April 9, 1989 and Baku, January 20, 1990), also at the memorial headstone in the yard of Sagarejo public school N1.
- ❖ Public meeting and a festive event were held on May 28 in village Iormughanlo with the support and organization of the Municipality City Hall to celebrate the end of the month of Ramazan, Azerbaijani religious festival, during which the faithful observe the fast Oruj.

## Rehabilitation of the infrastructure

### Kvemo Kartli region

#### Rustavi

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 16 projects were funded in Rustavi Municipality that amounted to a total of 12 404 606 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 11 682 203 GEL;

#### Bolnisi

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 16 projects were funded in Bolnisi Municipality that amounted to a total of 5 960 886 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 5 590 896 GEL;

#### Gardabani

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 7 projects were funded in Gardabani Municipality that amounted to a total of 8 114 806 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 6 406 476 GEL;

#### Dmanisi

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 6 projects were funded in Dmanisi Municipality that amounted to a total of 3 320 660 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 2 687 596 GEL;

#### Tetritskharo

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 8 projects were funded in Tetritskharo Municipality that amounted to a total of 5 202 178 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 4 166 263 GEL;

#### Marneuli

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 11 projects were funded in Marneuli Municipality that amounted to a total of 6 294 125 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 4 942 872 GEL;

#### Tsalka

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 3 projects were funded in Tsalka Municipality that amounted to a total of 3 418 007 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 3 063 063 GEL;

### Samtskhe-Javakheti region

#### Akhaltzikhe

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 10 projects were funded in Akhaltsikhe Municipality that amounted to a total of 6 455 721 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 5 661 869 GEL;
- ❖ 1 project in Akhaltsikhe Municipality was funded by the Fund or the Development of Highland settlements with a total worth of 687 718 GEL, including Highland Fund – 653 332 GEL;

#### Adigeni

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 2 projects were funded in Adigeni Municipality that amounted to a total of 2 434 656 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 2 205 432 GEL;

#### Aspindza

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 5 projects were funded in Aspindza Municipality that amounted to a total of 2 729 486 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 2 552 564 GEL;

#### Akhalkalaki

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 5 projects were funded in Akhalkalaki Municipality that amounted to a total of 4 438 015 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 4 065 468 GEL;

## Borjomi

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 10 projects were funded in Borjomi Municipality that amounted to a total of 5 126 114 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 4 089 417 GEL;

## Ninotsminda

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 6 projects were funded in Ninotsminda Municipality that amounted to a total of 3 229 875 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 3 060 922 GEL;

## Kakheti region

### Akhmeta

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 18 projects were funded in Akhmeta Municipality that amounted to a total of 4 578 987 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 4 325 217 GEL;

### Lagodekhi

- ❖ Within the framework of the budget of projects to be implemented in regions, 10 projects were funded in Lagodekhi Municipality that amounted to a total of 5 556 589 GEL, including regional development fund (RDF) – 5 134 675 GEL;