



**Government of Georgia  
State Inter-Agency Commission  
Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration**

**2011 Annual Report of Implementation  
of the National Concept and Action Plan for Tolerance  
and Civic Integration**

**January – December 2011**

***With the aim of carrying out the National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration and the Action Plan of 2009-2014 , the joint comprehensive report concerning the activities implemented in 2011 was prepared by the Georgian Government, as well as by the Tbilisi City Hall and the Tbilisi City Assembly, regional administrations and local self-governing bodies of Kvemo-Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti. The present 2011 annual report was elaborated by the joint working group of the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration and the State Inter-Agency Commission***

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DENMARK'S GEORGIA PROGRAMME 2010-2013  
PROMOTION OF JUDICIAL REFORM,  
HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS  
ქვემოთ ხელისუფლების მხრიდან 2010-2013  
სასამართლო რეფორმის, ადამიანისა და  
მცირეობების უფლებების ხელშეწყობის



EUROPEAN CENTRE  
FOR  
MINORITY ISSUES

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**Addresses of useful web- resources:**

Official web-page address <http://www.smr.gov.ge>  
Action Plan of 2011 year: <http://www.smr.gov.ge/index.php?opt=5>  
Report of 2011 year: <http://www.smr.gov.ge/docs/doc51.pdf>  
Report of 2009 year: <http://www.smr.gov.ge/docs/doc48.pdf>

**Addresses of other useful web- resources:**

(i) <http://www.president.gov.ge> ; (ii) <http://www.government.gov.ge> ; (iii) <http://www.ecmicaucasus.org/>;  
(iv) <http://diversity.ge/geo/>

## **Introduction**

“The National Concept and Action Plan<sup>1</sup> of 2009-2011 for Tolerance and Civic Integration” was approved by the decree N348<sup>2</sup> of the Government of Georgia dated 8 May 2009. By this act, the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration<sup>3</sup> was tasked with the elaboration and coordination of policy with regard to the national minorities, as well as submission of the report in December of each year to the Government of Georgia<sup>4</sup> and the council that is responsible before the President.<sup>5</sup> With a view to implementing these processes in a coordinated manner the State Inter-Agency Commission was set up on the basis of the order N14 dated July 3, 2009<sup>6</sup> of the Vice Prime Minister of Georgia, the State Minister for Reintegration. The committee composition encompasses not only the leadership of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration and responsible staff but the representatives of respective state institutions as well, Ministries, agencies and organizations, also the representatives of the Tbilisi City Assembly and three regional administrations of the regions populated by national minorities:

- ❖ Office of the State Minister for Reintegration;
- ❖ Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection;
- ❖ Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Affairs;
- ❖ Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure;
- ❖ Ministry of Justice;
- ❖ Ministry of Education and Science;
- ❖ National Curriculum and Assessment Center;
- ❖ Teacher Professional Development Center;
- ❖ National Examination Center;
- ❖ Central Election Commission;
- ❖ Public Defender’s Office;
- ❖ Public Broadcasting;
- ❖ Tbilisi City Assembly;
- ❖ Administration of State Attorney-Governor in Kvemo-Kartli region;
- ❖ Administration of State Attorney-Governor in Samtskhe-Javakheti region;
- ❖ Administration of State Attorney-Governor in Kakheti region.

The committee composition was refreshed and new departments were added based on the order N7 of January 24, 2011 of the State Minister:<sup>7</sup>

- ❖ The Administration of the President;
- ❖ Office of the National Security Council;
- ❖ National Parliamentary Library of Georgia;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.smr.gov.ge/docs/doc44.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.smr.gov.ge/docs/doc43.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.smr.gov.ge/index.php?opt=1>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.government.gov.ge>

<sup>5</sup> <http://diversity.ge/geo/resources.php?coi=0|12|13|13>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.smr.gov.ge/docs/doc221.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.smr.gov.ge/docs/doc42.pdf>

- ❖ Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs;
- ❖ Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The commission has been effectively cooperating with *the pertinent committees of the Georgian Parliament,<sup>8</sup> local self-governing bodies, Tolerance Center<sup>9</sup> of the Public Defender's Office,<sup>10</sup> other active representatives of civil society and national organizations. The commission regularly holds meetings with different themes on the agenda including the field sessions in the regions.*

It is noteworthy that the present complex report reflecting the work implemented in 2011 has been elaborated as a result of the activities of the joint working group of the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration and members of the State Inter-Agency Commission.

During framing up of the action plan of 2011 as well as the annual report, also with the financial and organizational support of the events stipulated by the annual action plan, “*Denmark’s Georgian Program*” by the Danish Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark<sup>11</sup>) funding actively aided the Government of Georgia in Promotion of Judicial Reforms, Human and Minority rights of 2010-2013” carried out by the Council of Europe<sup>12</sup> and the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)<sup>13</sup>.”

### **The process description**

From 2009 till 2011, Interdepartmental Coordination Mechanisms were set up through the efforts of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration. As a result of its work the third annual report on the implementation of the Action Plan has already been prepared. The Office of the State Minister works on the institutionalization of interdepartmental process and its enhancement mechanisms which is aimed at creating cultural, civil, tolerant and mutually respectful environment the between multi-ethnic community dwelling in Georgia and close forms of cooperation with the civil sector.

In the course of implementation process of the action plan 2011, the consultations were carried out systematically with responsible officials of local self-governing bodies and regional administrations of the country’s three regions - Kakheti, Kvemo-Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, as well as with the representatives of the civil sector to the end to coordinate the events to be implemented and programs of minority issues. The field informational meetings with the population and local government, non-profit organizations and representatives of the community should be noted (see in the appendix N1 the description of the implemented actions during 2011 with the goal of coordination among the state bodies).

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<sup>8</sup> [http://www.parliament.ge/index.php?sec\\_id=252&lang\\_id=GEO](http://www.parliament.ge/index.php?sec_id=252&lang_id=GEO)

<sup>9</sup> <http://ombudsman.ge/index.php?page=63&lang=0>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.ombudsman.ge>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.um.dk/en>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.coe.int/> ; <http://portal.coe.ge/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://ecmcaucasus.org/>

The present report manifests the activities fulfilled according to six strategic directions envisaged under the action plan of 2011– the rule of law, education and the state language, media and access to information, political integration and civil participation, social and regional integration, culture and preservation of identity by executive and legislative authorities of Georgia; as well as the events implemented in cooperation with the Public Defender’s office and representatives of the civil sector.

The following activities fulfilled by the authorities should be mentioned in terms of accomplishing the Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration and Action Plan in 2011:

- Amendments have been introduced to the Civil Code<sup>14</sup> by which the religious confessions recognized among member countries of Council of Europe or religions having close historical ties with Georgia were given the opportunity to be registered as legal entities of public law. The question of adjustment of the registration was initiated by the Council of Religions existent under the umbrella of the Public Defender’s Office and the extensive considerations with the stakeholders group and the representatives of civil sector resulted in its adoption.
- The Georgian Parliament adopted the law on “Personal Data Protection” which considers the ethnic and religious type of information as a particular category and creates legislative guarantees for its protection.
- On the basis of cooperation with the civil sector and recommendations of ECRI<sup>15</sup> the amendments to the Criminal Code have been made that consider a crime committed on the racial ground as the one committed under the aggravating circumstance in case of all types of crime.
- Based on the recommendations of the civil sector representatives, the Ministry of Education and Science represented a new strategy, in which the initiatives of the President of Georgia were reflected in the civil integration direction. The updated concept takes into account the attraction of the complementary qualified teachers and mentor-teachers in order to improve the learning process of the state language; to open the additional language houses with the intention of satisfying the request of the population; to arrange exchange programs and summer camps with active participation of the ethnic minorities with the purpose of tolerance and dialogue of cultures.
- The norm of the Law on Higher Education entered into force that takes into consideration the establishment of quotas for the Abkhazian spoken students in Higher education institutions.
- The Cultural Heritage Agency continued making the inventory of cultural heritage monuments, among them the cult buildings of religious minorities and the Ministry of Culture and Monument protection together with the Tbilisi City Hall implementation of the support program for theatres and museums.
- The new format of broadcasting of the information program “Moambe” in minority languages has significantly increased the interest of spectators towards the program

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<sup>14</sup> 5 July 2011

<sup>15</sup> Council of Europe: European Commission against Racism and Intolerance. [www.coe.int/ecri](http://www.coe.int/ecri)

particularly in the regions since 2011. In total, the Public Broadcaster provided 316 coverages of minority related issues on TV and Radio air in 2011.

- With the aim of increasing political and civil participation of the ethnic minorities, the Central Election Commission opened 7 resource-centers in 4 cities– Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Bolnisi and Marneuli, densely populated by ethnic minorities. In order to ensure making of an informed choice by the minorities, the election administration plans to translate the election documentation in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages by the parliamentary elections of 2012; arrangement of the pre-election campaign is also planned in minority languages through social advertisement and field meetings to assist the minorities to be informed about the election day, procedures and voters' rights.
- During 2011 the Government of Georgia continued large-scale infrastructural changes in the regions and villages of the country. The road and gasification works acquired great importance in the mountainous regions of South Georgia with harsh climate conditions. In total, 189 million GEL was spent for the infrastructural works solely in three regions compactly inhabited by the minorities.

Within the framework of the governmental plan of hospital sector development, a billion dollars investment has already been effected by means of the state and private investments. By the end of 2011 about 50 new hospitals were open, among them 12 hospitals in the municipalities populated by minorities. By the end of 2013 new 150 medical centers will be fully renovated. Overall 8,000 new beds and completely updated medical treatment infrastructure will be created.

## **1. Rule of Law**

During the reporting period in the realm of the Rule of Law the following measures were implemented:

On 28 December, 2011 the Parliament of Georgia adopted the law “on the Personal Data Protection” that regulates the mechanisms of protection, elaboration and collection of personal information related to racial, ethnic background, religious/philosophical conviction and person's biometric data as well.

The institute of data protection inspector will supervise the implementation process of these requests of the Law. The efficient enforcement of the Law will foster human rights protection, accomplishment of the international obligations undertaken by Georgia and harmonization of Georgian Legislation with European standards.

By the initiative of the council under the auspices of the President of Georgia, the Ministry of Justice<sup>16</sup> has drafted the bill of amendments for the Criminal Code new edition of which was also discussed with the National Minority Council under the auspices of the Public Defender's Office. The changes were made in part 3-1 of article 53 of the Criminal Code and it was formulated in the following edition: “*committing a crime on racial, skin color, language, gender, sexual*

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.justice.gov.ge/>

*orientation, gender identity, age, religion, political or other, disability or national, ethnic and social grounds, origin, property and social position, place of residence or other discriminatory ground represents the aggravating circumstance of the responsibility with the intolerance motive for all respective crimes stipulated under this code.”*

According to the amendments introduced to the *Civil Code* on 2 July, 2011, the religious organizations can be registered as a legal entity of public law. At the same time this provision does not restrict the religious associations if they desire to register as a private legal entity or exist in an unregistered union form. Under these legislative changes the National Agency of Public Registry<sup>17</sup> can register as a legal entity of Public Law religious associations having historical links with Georgia or such religious trends which are considered to be religions by the legislation of the member countries of the Council of Europe. Currently, 8 religious associations made an effective use of all those benefits and privileges stipulated by the Civil Code, they were registered as legal entities of Public Law and enjoy all of the benefits and privileges provided for by the Georgian Legislation.

- ❖ Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church of Georgia;
- ❖ Georgia’s Muslims Department;
- ❖ Jewish People’s Union;
- ❖ Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Georgia;
- ❖ Armenian Catholics of the Eastern Europe;
- ❖ Caucasian Apostolic Administration of Latin Catholics;
- ❖ Chaldean- Assyrians society of Georgia;
- ❖ The Spiritual Council of Yezidis of Georgia.

The delegation of the European Union in Georgia, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the USA Embassy have responded to legislative amendments regarding the registration rule of religious associations with special statements. The Pope estimated these changes as the promising steps in the realm of freedom of religion.

In terms of development of tolerant environment and protection of freedom of religion, on 30 December, 2010 the Minister of Corrections and Legal Assistance of Georgia<sup>18</sup> issued a significant decree according to which the clergies of the religious minorities were granted an opportunity to meet the persons of different religious confessions in the places of deprivation of liberty on the basis of the prisoners’ demands and in agreement with the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance. The decree also regulates the rule of holding the religious rituals in places of deprivation of liberty. The mentioned decree was put into practice from 2011.

The Public Service Halls<sup>19</sup> have already been functioning on the territory of Georgia; this is a public institution with a totally new concept, where the services of the Civil Registry Agency, the National Agency of Public Registry, the National Archives, the National Bureau of Enforcement, and the Notary Chamber are combined in contextualized sense. The decision of the

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<sup>17</sup> <http://www.napr.gov.ge/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.mcla.gov.ge/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://house.gov.ge/>

Government of Georgia is especially interesting with respect to opening of the Public Service Halls in the regions inhabited by the religious minorities, where non-Georgian speaking population have the opportunity to enjoy their rights and get the appropriate service by one window principle. The Public Service Hall was opened in 2011 and effectively operates in the town of Rustavi. This house of Justice conducts 1,127 transactions per day on average. In 2012, opening of the Public Service Halls is planned in 12 cities among them Akhaltsikhe, Marneuli and Kvareli.

In 2011, on the basis of cooperation between *the Ministry of Internal Affairs*<sup>20</sup> and *the Office of the Public Defender* the „*List of Procedural Rights for Detainees under Administrative Law and Criminal Charges*“ was elaborated in a simple language in five languages (Georgian, English, Russian, Azerbaijani, Armenian).

The mentioned lists of the procedural rights are placed for display in the form of posters in pre-trial detention centers in clearly seen places, besides the abovementioned, the lists are distributed to the persons in the pre-trial detention places in their preferred language. In accordance with the international obligations and recommendations, the human rights law and accordingly, the issues related to the discriminatory crime represent the indivisible and significant part of the training of the policemen. In this respect the efficient cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Apparatus of the Public Defender should be mentioned.

### **Popularization of International Acts and National Legislation**

In order to create better public awareness and promote the “*Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*” adopted by the Council of Europe on 01.02.1995 and ratified by the Georgian Parliament on 13.10.2005, the brochures “*The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities – in questions, answers*” and the “*National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration - in questions, answers and schemes*” were distributed during the regional trips and in the civil society organizations interested in the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration (printed by the financial support of the Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Center of Minority Issues (ECMI) program).

With the view of protecting national, ethnic, and religious minorities against the discriminatory treatment and in order to increase their awareness, the legislative acts were issued in Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages by the initiative of the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration in 2011 and disseminated in Tbilisi and local municipalities:

- ✓ *The „Constitution of Georgia“ – in Georgian, Azerbaijani, Armenian, and Russian languages; codified edition by the status of April, 2011 (by CoE/ECMI program funding).*
- ✓ *„Concise Explanatory Dictionary“, May, 2011 (by CoE/ECMI funding).*

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<sup>20</sup> <http://police.ge/>



- ✓ The new brochure related to the violation of human equality and racial discrimination - „*Prohibition of Discrimination*“ was prepared in Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2011; the abovementioned brochure has been sent to every division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

## **2. Education and State Language**

The Ministry of Education and Science<sup>21</sup> carries out such complex events<sup>22</sup> in the framework of the civil integration policy of national minorities as to ensure access to education for national minorities, promote the state language popularization as well as the preservation of cultural and linguistic identity of national minorities.

Within the educational policy, particular attention is paid to the Georgian language learning programs for national minorities. Namely working out and implementing the projects oriented at the improvement of the learning process of the Georgian language as a second language.

### **Promotion of the State Language Learning**

**The program “Learn Georgian as the Second Language”** aims at the professional development of Georgian language and literature teachers and promotion of Georgian language learning in the regions inhabited by the ethnic minorities. The program implies assigning qualified teachers of Georgian Language and Literature to non-Georgian spoken language schools, namely to the villages of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo-Kartli and Kakheti populated by ethnic minorities.

Nowadays, in the framework of the program, are employed 65 teachers, who were trained in: “Method’s of teaching Georgian as a second language” (60 hours) “Ethnic and religious tolerance” (5h) and in the rapid course for learning Azerbaijani or Armenian languages (84h) and they were assigned to the villages of Kvemo-Kartli and Kakheti populated by the ethnic minorities.

A newly arrived teacher is required to know the local language on an elementary level to communicate with the community, engage the parents and other teachers in the events. In 2011 additional 11 trainer-teachers were selected.

In parallel with learning Georgian language and literature in schools the teachers organize different actions, establish the “clubs of Georgian language”. In order to arrange clubs and manage the learning process effectively, the “*National Center for Teachers Professional Development*”<sup>23</sup> handed over the necessary inventory, audio-video equipment, training - visual

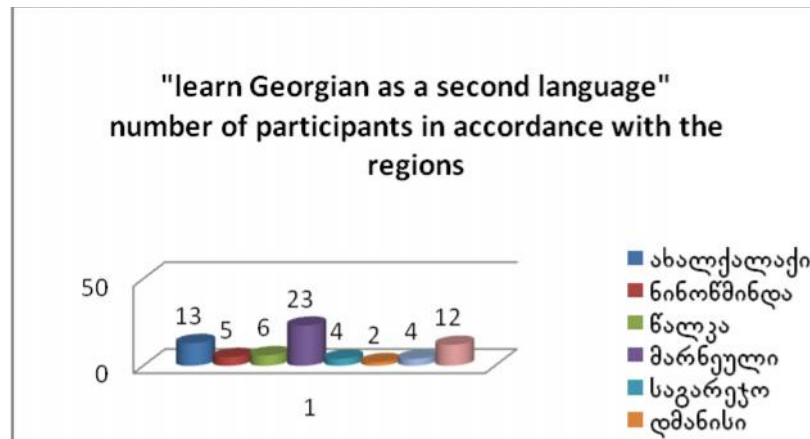
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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.mes.gov.ge/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=547&lang=geo>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.tpdc.ge/ge/main>

materials, stationary items and in addition 65 sets of visual aids (15 aids in each set) to 59 schools involved in the program.



Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda, Tsalka, Marneuli, Sagarejo, Dmanisi

In July, 16 teachers and 84 pupils participating in the program proceeded learning of the Georgian language in a free regime (by the means of playing and organizing excursions and events) within the framework of the “Summer School”, in Kechkhobi. The trainer-teachers taught ethnic Armenian and Azerbaijani children Georgian language with a variety of interactive methods (morning exercises, games and other).

16 teachers set off for Anaklia Summer Camp from May till October 2011, where non-Georgian speaking pupils are taught Georgian language by a specially created training program.

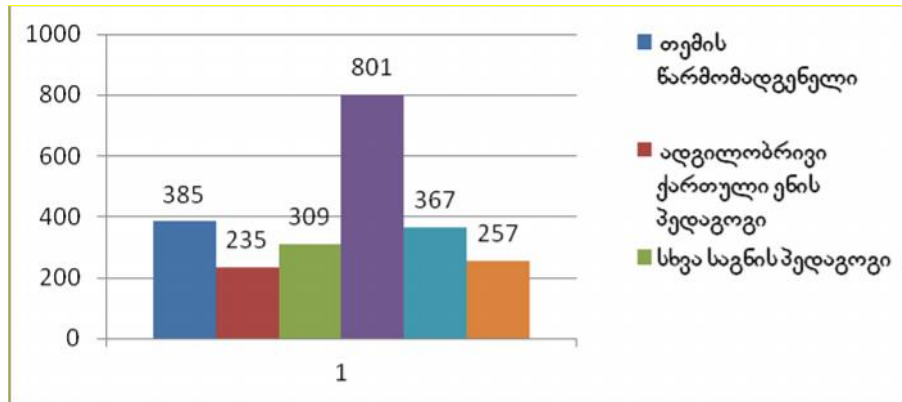
About 30 trainer-teachers who were assigned to schools in the context of exchange –Friendship project in 2011 found a partner - Georgian school; joint events were arranged.

Within the boundaries of the program in 2011, 69 trainer-teachers held trainings/lessons involving;

- 4,034 pupils
- 558 local Georgian language teachers

In Georgian language clubs Georgian is taught by:

- Community representatives;
- local Georgian language teachers;
- Teachers of other subjects;
- Parents;
- School children of undergraduate grade;
- Persons wishing to continue learning in Georgia.



Community representative

Local Georgian language teacher

Teacher of other subject

In the schools where teachers participating in this program have been sent, the pupils gained the highest scores in Georgian language during the graduation exams and solely 2% could not cross the barrier in this subject. 113 entrants successfully passed the skill tests in 2011 and now they are studying on the preparatory courses.

on 1 June of 2011, by the initiative of the President, the new project “**Georgian Language for the Future Success**”<sup>24</sup> started to be implemented by the “National Center for Teachers Professional Development”. The target group of the program consists of the school-children, teachers, school administration of non-Georgian speaking schools and the local community dwelling in Kvemo-Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti. Within the framework of the program two information clips were prepared that were broadcasted by the central TV channels.

In order to improve the level of Georgian language command in non-Georgian speaking schools, the “National Center for Teachers Professional Development” on the basis of the competition selected and sent 303 specialists with Bachelor’s degree who assist the teachers of local non-Georgian speaking schools to hold Georgian language lessons and/or to conduct the learning process bilingually.

50% of non-Georgian speaking schools existent in the regions was covered. The State will finance the education fee of the Magistrate course for the Bachelors who were sent to these regions.

“*The Manuals for Georgian as a Second Language of Elementary I-IV Level*” were created in 2011 that were founded on the principles of communicative teaching principles of modern pedagogy. The Manual set includes the student book and the workbook;

In addition, the teacher’s guidebook and thematic audio-material for class work was prepared. Each level of the Manual was printed in circulation of 20,000 copies and was distributed to non-Georgian schools in conformity with their requirements.

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.tpdg.ge/ge/programs/qartuli-ena-momavali-warmatebistvis>

In the form of the supplementary learning material, special 4-level computer games were created that are intended for non-Georgian speaking schoolchildren and are in accordance with the themes of a new Georgian language textbook. The games were loaded in the computer-notebooks intended for the first grade schoolchildren and simultaneously were placed on the special web-page [www.buki.ge](http://www.buki.ge).

### **Multilingual Teaching Supporting Program**

Since 6 January, 2011, in the framework of the “*Multilingual Teaching Support Program*”<sup>25</sup> the monitoring has been carried out in the Pilot schools included on the present program. Within the framework of the program and with the support of *OSCE High Commissioner in the minority issues*, the new methodological Manual “*Teacher’s roadmap in Multilingual Learning*» was created, which has already been translated into Georgian language and its publication is intended at the beginning of 2012

12 Armenian, 12 Azerbaijani, 9 Russian and 1 Ukrainian (overall 34) Experimental non-Georgian language public schools, where 30% of the subjects are taught in Georgian language were granted purposeful subsidies which totaled 1000 Gel in 2011 and was spent as a salary supplement of the program teachers.

### **Sunday Schools and Courses**

The financing of existent Ossetian Sunday School was ensured within the frame of the “*Subprogram of Protection of Minorities’ Languages*” in the premises of Tbilisi public school N11 by the Ministry of Education and Science in 2011. 20 students had an opportunity to learn Ossetian language, culture, history, folklore, Caucasian dances and songs in Ossetian Sunday school.

Georgian language lessons were held once a week in order to teach Georgian language to the parents of public school children in 19 non-Georgian language villages of Bolnisi Municipality.

The teachers of the primary and secondary level and principals of non-Georgian language schools of Marneuli Municipality were trained in the integrated teaching of language and subject by the initiative and funding of the “*Center for Civil Integration and Ethnic Relations*”.

50 Georgian language learning courses were held in 35 schools of the region by *Azerbaijani cultural center of Marneuli*. 52 directors of non-Georgian language Armenian and Azerbaijani schools passed intensive learning courses of Georgian language twice in 90 days.

Georgian language cabinets work productively in non-Georgian schools of Tetrtskaro municipality, where the meetings are held with the school activists as well as the population of

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<sup>25</sup> <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=547&lang=geo>

the village. The courses for learning Georgian language function for non-Georgian speaking teachers and schoolchildren with the purpose of studying Georgian language better.

The learning courses of computer and office programs were opened in the municipalities of Akhmeta and Sagarejo where ethnic minorities live compactly.

### **National School Olympiads**

The national school olympiads of 2010-2011 academic year were conducted in all secondary educational institutions existing in Georgia, among them in non Georgian language schools in Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian languages, and non-Georgian spoken schoolchildren partook in the Georgian language olympiad too (see the detail information in appendix N7).

### **Holding of high school graduation exams in Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian languages**

In 2011, the graduation exams were held for the first time in 1,520 schools throughout Georgia, among them in non-Georgian language schools. The pupils of non-Georgian language schools/sector were allowed to take an exam in Georgian as a second language.

Save this they had the right to pass History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Math exams in their native language. In summary, 36,785 students received a full confirming document of secondary education (Certificate) on the basis of high school graduation exams.

<b>pupils</b>	<b>number</b>
Russian language speaking	1,187
Azerbaijani language speaking	508
Armenian language speaking	792

### **School Partnership**

With a view to supporting the integration of ethnic minorities in the society living in Georgia, the competition “school partnership events” has been announced. The goal of the competition was the establishment of friendly ties between Georgian and non-Georgian language schools existing in the country. Overall 95 project applications have been received, among them the friendship had been established between 3-3 schools in 13 projects, between 4-4 schools in 11 projects, between 6-6 in 3 projects and between 2-2 schools in the rest ones. The Ministry has established 10 winning projects according to the number of engaged schools and pupils.

The training of public school teachers in Kakheti region for the improvement of the Georgian language learning as the state and communication language takes place regularly in the Telavi State University.

## **Improvement of access to the higher education**

On the Unified Admission Examinations of 2011, the right to continue learning in the higher education institutions was earned on the basis of outcome of general skill tests in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages:

- on the grounds of Azerbaijani language general skill test - 250 entrants;
- on the basis of Armenian language general skill test - 179 entrants

Financed on the basis of results of solely Azerbaijani and Armenian language general skill tests of 2011 Unified Entry examinations by the state education grant:

- On the ground of Azerbaijani language general skill test – 98 entrants
- On the basis of Armenian language general skill test – 99 entrants

For the first time 2 entrants passed an exam in Abkhazian language instead of Georgian language and literature at the Unified admission examinations in 2011:

- one entrant has gained the right to continue learning in the educational program that prepares in Georgian language on the basis of results of general skill tests;
- one entrant has obtained the right to continue learning in academic educational program on the ground of creative tour and other compulsory subjects.

The unified magistrate examinations were held in Georgian and Russian languages in 2011. Overall 123 MA candidates passed the test in Russian language alongside with this preparation manual for the year of 2011 was published in Russian language.

The preparatory compendium of the Unified admission examinations was published in ethnic minority languages in 2011 on:

- a) Optional subjects In Russian language;
- b) General skills in Russian, Azerbaijani and Armenian languages.

The representatives of *the National Examinations Center*<sup>26</sup> have held meetings in Akhalkalaki, Bolnisi, Marneuli and Gardabani with the graduation grade pupils and their parents of Azerbaijani and Armenian schools of the two regions which had been organized by the Office of the State Ministry for Reintegration. The future entrants have been familiarized with the amendments to the Education law and were explained the required procedures for filing an application.

2-3 months prior to the start of the entrance exams, two-month, free, preparatory courses in Georgian language are opened for non-Georgian speaking entrants in Telavi State University on annual basis. In the same University in order to promote the mobility of non-Georgian language

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.naec.ge/>

speaking students the exchange programs function with Greek, Ukrainian and Italian Universities and scientific centers of the other countries.

### **Georgian language houses**

The Ministry of Education and Science has ensured the funding of the language houses totaling 22,500 Gel (for each center) in Ninotsminda and Akhalkalaki in the framework of the “*Georgian Language Program*” for 2011. In addition, also in 2011, by the Ministry the allocation of funds was ensured for the Georgian language centers of Dmanisi and Bolnisi founded in 2009 (22.500 Gel for each center as well).

Nowadays, teaching of 4-4 groups is underway in 2 language houses and in 2 Georgian language centers; they have approximately 300 students a year. Within the framework of the program “*Georgian Language for Future Success*” additional 3 Georgian language houses were opened in Kvemo-Kartli region – Gardabani and Marneuli, as well as in the village of Iormuganlo of Kakheti region. Since October 1, 2011, administration of Georgian language houses and centers has been administered by the Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration. 7 Georgian language schools are planned to be opened additionally in 2012.

### **Opening-updating of the libraries**

The libraries equipped with free and quick gratis internet service and updated books, textbooks, computer techniques were opened for youth in Tbilisi and Akhaltsikhe in 2011.

32 Armenian libraries function now in Samtskhe-Javakheti region and the bilingual library was opened by the president of Georgia in Akhaltsikhe in December 2011. 1 Armenian, 2 Azerbaijani and 13 mixed libraries operate in Kvemo Kartli region.

### **Promotion of civil integration in the educational realm**

With the intention of raising awareness of students and their involvement in the process of the civil integration, the representatives of the Ministries of Reintegration, Sport and Youth have met the students matriculated at different faculties who represent national minorities and self-governance of the *Georgian Technical University*. At the meetings the students have been informed about the implementation process of the state programs of 2011 and about realized alterations.

### **3. Media and access to information**

#### **Informational broadcaster**

*The Public broadcaster*<sup>27</sup> is the sole mass media means in the country that has a statutory obligation stipulated by the law to prepare programs in the minority languages; it ensures the rights of the national minorities living in the country to receive the information in their native language and broadcasts in 6 minority languages (Abkhaz, Ossetian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Russian, Kurdish languages). Great heed is given to daily broadcasting – news programs in Abkhaz, Ossetian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages.

Taking into consideration viewers' interests and with the aim of more efficient dissemination of the information, the public broadcaster spreads programs of national "Moambe"<sup>28</sup> through the means of different channels – by the Channel 1<sup>29</sup> (in the morning hours), by the Channel 2<sup>30</sup> (in the evening hours) and through the regional TV as well. The prime time has been purchased for this purpose (prime time from 20:00 to 23:00) for Marneuli on "Marneuli TV" ("Moambe" is broadcast in Azerbaijani language) on "Trialeti" of Gori ("Moambe" is broadcast in Ossetian language), on Odishi of Zugdidi ("Moambe" is aired in Abkhaz language) and on "atv16" of Akhalkalaki ("Moambe" is broadcast in Armenian language).

In addition, Ninotsminda and Chiatura TV companies provide air time to national "Moambe" free of charge by their own initiative. The information block is transmitted to the regional stations that embrace 8-10 news; each episode timing equals a ballpark 1.5 minutes; the release of the program in one language reaches 10 minutes. The stations are entitled to repeat the programs in morning and evening hours. Furthermore, the complete information collage is broadcast in 4 languages. (Duration – 40m) it is aired on the second channel at 23.00 p.m and on the first channel at 07:30 a.m. Besides, the editors of the national languages prepare the reportage themselves related to the topics of their interest. The regional TV companies also provide their stories to the central channels.

#### **Broadcasting to the regions**

2 satellite national Russian language channels "PIK" and "Region TV" covered the regions populated by the national and ethnic minorities. From 1 March, 2012 after merging the afore-said two channels, Russian language TV Company – " " broadcasts, whose target audience is Caucasian people.

The programs have been prepared concerning Caucasian artists, successful people of different minorities living in Georgia, cultural events, their folklore and history, cultural centers and theatres. The documentary film has been prepared related to the people who work in the field of art, Azerbaijani modern art, Azerbaijani Folklore, the international festival of classical music,

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.gpb.ge/Default.aspx?LangID=1>

<sup>28</sup> <http://1tv.ge/tvshow/30>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.1tv.ge/>

<sup>30</sup> <http://2tv.ge/>



Armenian painters and others. 15-minute news is also aired every day in 3 languages – Armenian, Abkhazian and Ossetian.

local TV companies also function in the region that broadcast in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages and except the materials prepared by the local correspondents they air informational programs of the central channels with simultaneous translation.

### **The program “Italian Courtyard”<sup>31</sup>**

The program is aired on Sundays. The minority integration policy issues, the conditions of ethnoses and diasporas living in Georgia, professional education, healthcare, state language learning, the infrastructure development, art of photography, sport and others were covered in 2011. By the initiative of the *Office of the State Minister for Reintegration*, some of the programs of this talk show were recorded on DVD discs and disseminated in the regions through the regional TV channels with the intention of raising awareness of the population.

### **Television space bridge “Tbilisi-Baku”**

3 TV space bridges were arranged by the Azerbaijani and Georgian public broadcasters over the year 2011. The programs were prepared by the editorial board of *the national minority languages broadcaster*. The conversation related to the cooperation of the two countries in non-governmental sector, tourism development and economic ties. This TV Bridge caused great interest of the viewers of two countries. On 16 October, 2011 a new TV space Bridge was dedicated to the 20th anniversary of restoration of independence of Azerbaijani Republic.

### **Musical entertaining program “10+10”**

One of the most successful projects of the *public broadcaster* became *musical program “10+10”* in 2011, in which Georgian and Armenian popular singers took part. The viewers of the two neighboring countries watched ten releases of the program and Gala-concerts simultaneously in Georgian and Armenian languages. In accordance with the request of the spectators, continuation of the program is planned in 2012. The negotiations are underway also with the Ukrainian public broadcaster with regard to the implementation of similar projects.

### **Radio broadcaster**

The radio transmission was on air on the “*First Radio*”<sup>32</sup> in the national minority languages in 2011. Nowadays, the radio transmission of Public Broadcaster airs the audio version of the “*National Moambe’s*” news collage. The radio program in Georgian language is prepared once a week except the informational programs in Abkhaz, Ossetian, Azerbaijani and Armenian languages.

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<sup>31</sup> <http://1tv.ge/tvshow/14>

<sup>32</sup> <http://radio1.ge/>

The new radio program “*Our Georgia*” was added to air in 2011 in which the guests from different ethnic groups participated. This 45-minute program is aired once a week by the “*Democracy and Civil Integration Center*” and by the funding of the foundation “*Open Society-Georgia*”.

### Overall air product statistics in 2011

Format of programs	Name	Duration, min.	Number	Sum, h.
TV news	National Moambe	40	260	174
TV musical	10+10	80	22	30
TV Talk-show	Italian Courtyard	45	52	39
Radio Talk-show	Our Georgia	60	45	45
Radio news	Kurdish	30	52	26
Overall per year, hour				314

### Number of exclusive reportages prepared by the editorial boards in 2011

Name	Duration, min.	Number	Sum, min.
Abkhaz editorial board	3	5	15
Ossetian editorial board	3	6	18
Azerbaijani editorial board	3	5	15
Armenian editorial board	3	16	48
Overall per year, min.			96

### Promotion of printed media

With the purpose of raising awareness of non-Georgian speaking population and their integration in Georgian cultural realm, Armenian-language newspaper “*Vrastani*” and Azerbaijani-language newspaper “*Gurjistani*” were printed by the funding of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection<sup>33</sup> in 2011.

The Azerbaijani-newspapers were disseminated in the villages of Marneuli municipality – “*Regionpres*” (which is published three times a month); “*Zia*” (published once a month); “*Congress*” (published once per month); “*Ozani*” (published once a month). A local newspaper of Tsalka “*Trialetis Ekspres*” spreads not only in Tsalka but in Tetrtskaro and Dmanisi municipalities.

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.mcs.gov.ge/>

The municipalities of Kakheti region have the local newspapers (“our newspaper”, “Bakhtioni”, “Kvareli”) that are disseminated in the villages inhabited by the ethnic minorities of Telavi, Akhmeta, Kvareli.

#### **4. Political Integration and Civil Participation**

##### **Qualification enhancement of public officials**

*Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration*<sup>34</sup> provides short and long-term professional-educational programs in two stages for the public officials employed in the self-governing organs.

- Short-term courses:
  1. Informational technology management
  2. Financial management
  3. Project management and monitoring
  4. Human resources management
  5. Basic skills of Management
  
- Long-term courses:
  1. Georgian language learning course (3 months per year)
  2. English language learning course (3 months per year stage by stage)

21 Armenian and Azerbaijani language speaking employees of the local self-governments of Samtskhe–Javakheti and Kvemo-Kartli regions took intensive 3-month courses of Georgian language and clerical work from July of 2010 to February 2011.

##### **Securing of equal electoral rights**

Arising from the purpose of involving the representatives of ethnic minorities in the election and civil education process, *Central Election Commission*<sup>35</sup> (CEC) has set up the resource centers in the regions, organized meetings with local non- governmental organizations and has awarded minor grants. 7 resource centers had already been set up by 2011, 4 out of them – in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities – Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Bolnisi and Marneuli.

Various kinds of seminars, meetings have been held with the representatives of CEC non-governmental and international organizations in the resource centers, the trainings in conjunction

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<sup>34</sup> <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?t=srch&search&id=951&lang=geo>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.cec.gov.ge/>

with election issues have been conducted. The election library and useful internet-resources are also available in the resource centers.

### **Participation in the decision making process**

Official representatives of the *Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal affairs, Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration and the Administration of the President of Georgia* kept on holding systematic meetings with the Council of National Minorities at the Public Defender's Office in 2011, where the representatives of the Government introduced newly-adopted norms of legal-regulations and discussed issues of concern characteristic of different regions of the country or other thematic issues with the Civil Society activists.

*Ministry of Internal affairs* provides training and re-training of the police staff from the angle of the protection of the minorities' rights. Basic training course of the police force, as well as the training course of the precinct inspectors, covers the issues of minorities' rights.

Georgian Language Centre at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs provided training for Georgian citizens - representatives of national minorities and police officers.

From 2007 to 2011 the number of Azerbaijani police officers increased from 152 to 298 and the number of Armenian police officers - from 515 to 323.

It should be noted that obtaining and collecting any kind of information by the governmental bodies related to nationality is voluntary and confidential. Personal data is protected under the norms of General Administrative Code.

In 2011 representatives of ethnic minorities from Kvemo Kartli as well as from Samtskhe-Javakheti were involved in civic activities held either by the self-governing bodies or non-governmental organizations: in the town of Rustavi Azerbaijani and Ukrainian public centers functioned successfully.

With the purpose of protecting minorities and supporting their involvement in 2011, *the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration and the Ministry of Justice* held trainings for the staff of three municipalities (Telavi, Marneuli, Akhaltsikhe).

In collaboration with the *National Security Council of Georgia*<sup>36</sup> and *Civil Development Agency (CiDA), the Training Centre of the Ministry of Justice*<sup>37</sup> arranged an informational tour. Within the framework of the tour minority representatives from Kvemo Kartli and non-governmental organizations held meetings with the high rank officials of the Government. *Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, the Administration of the President of Georgia, Parliament of Georgia, Central Election Commission, Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration* and other bodies were also involved in the project.

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<sup>36</sup> <http://www.nsc.gov.ge/geo/>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.tcj.gov.ge/>

*Civil Service Bureaus* are functioning in the Kakheti region municipalities. These offices are often visited by the representatives of the minorities in order to receive the consultation and assistance.

As for the more accountability and transparency of the Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia, *Ministry of Justice continued the “Public Prosecutor’s Project”* in the regions populated by national minorities (Bolnisi, Akhaltsikhe, Rustavi).

Prosecutors held meetings with school pupils and discussed issues such as underage crime, healthy life-style and others. Approximately 1500 people were involved in Bolnisi and Akhaltsikhe.

<b>Akhaltsikhe</b>		<b>Bolnisi</b>	
Total number of events	40	Total number of events	33
Educational-Intellectual Event	29	Educational-Intellectual Event	10
Cultural Event	2	Cultural Event	4
Sports Event	7	Sports Event	17
Cleaning activity	1	Cleaning activity	0
Planting activity	1	Planting activity	2

## **5. Social and Regional Integration**

### **Supporting Regional Development**

In 2011 *the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure*<sup>38</sup> implemented:

- Elaboration of *the action plan and strategy for the development of the region and municipality* and ensuring engagement of national minorities;
- Monitoring and realization of *Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Investment projects*;
- Developing and monitoring the *Rural support project*;
- Preparing national strategy and action plan “*Methodological recommendations*” for the development of the regions compactly inhabited by national minorities.

In 2011 *Regional Development Councils* were set up in the regions which represent *an advisory body of the State Envoy-Governor*. Except authorities it also incorporates local businessmen acting in the region and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

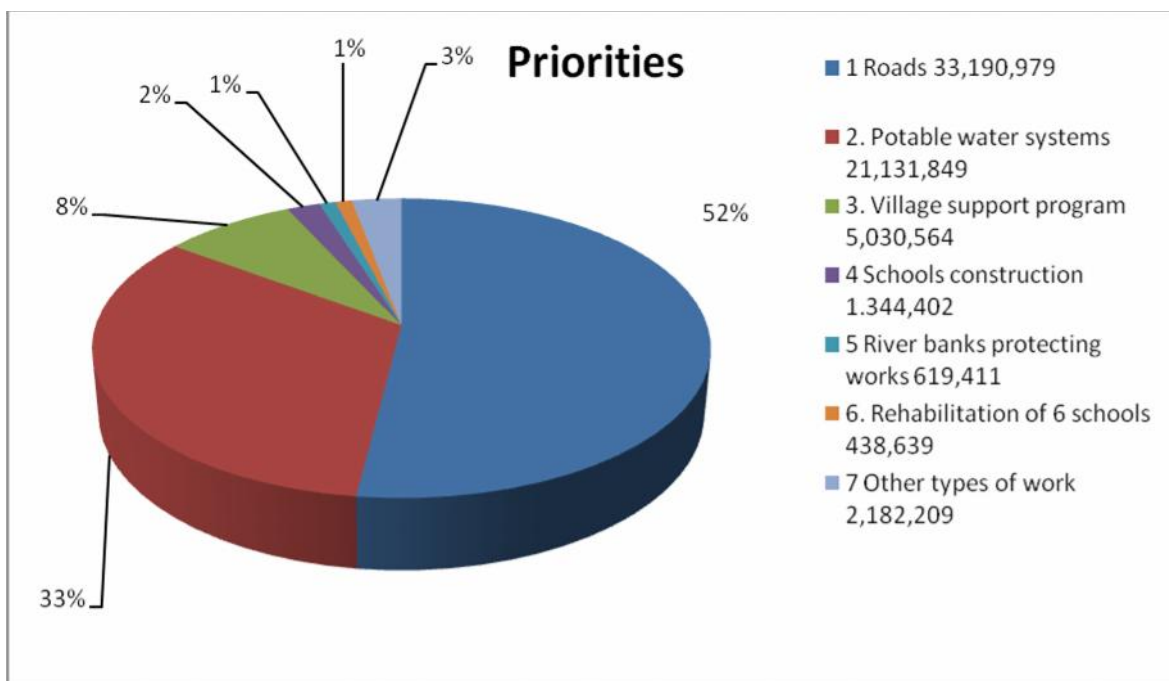
### **Developing Infrastructure in Regions**

(1) Following works were carried out in 2011 under the **Infrastructure Rehabilitation Investment Projects** in three of the regions populated by the minorities:

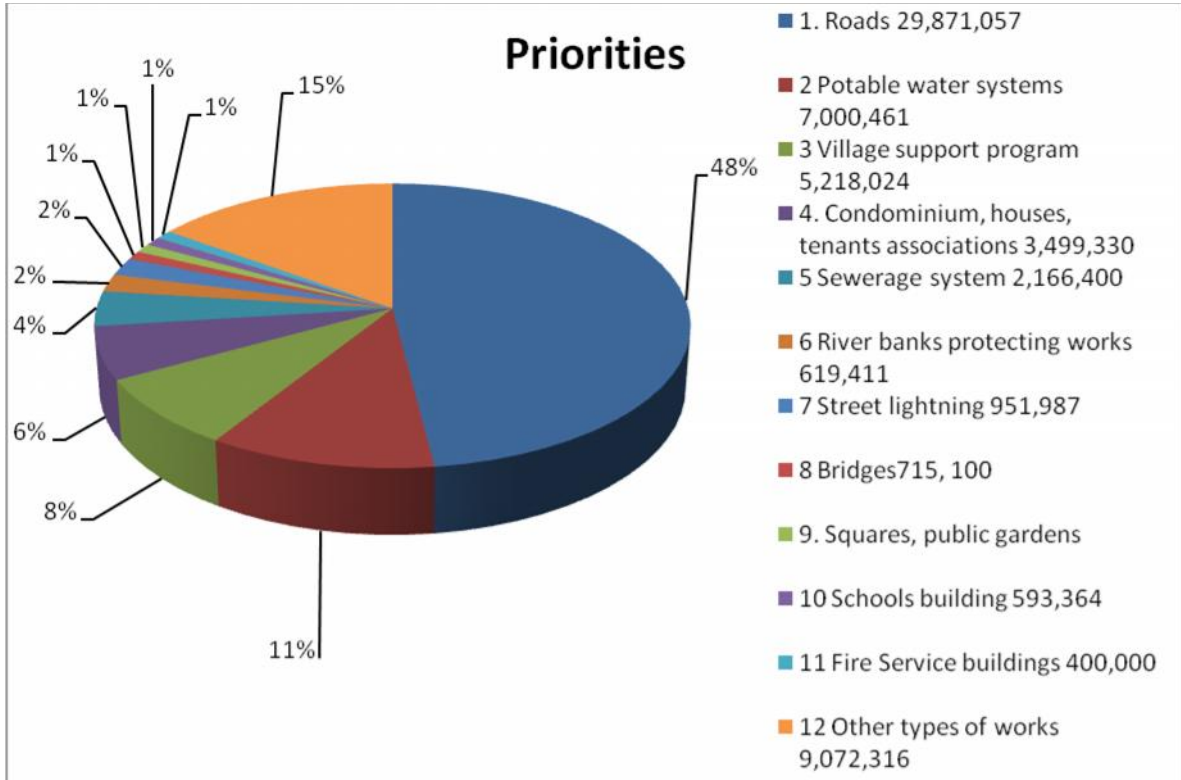
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<sup>38</sup> <http://www.mrdi.gov.ge/>

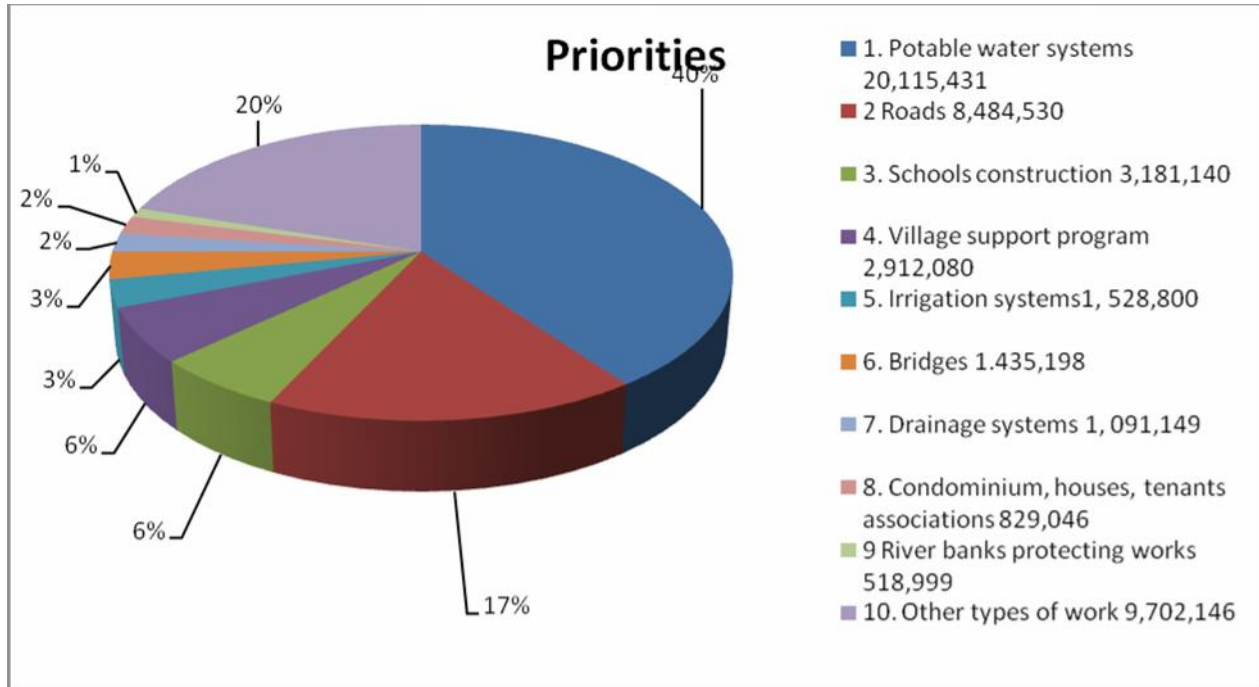
**Kakheti region, 2011: Total amount of the Investment Portfolio – 63,938,081 GEL**



**Kvemo Kartli region, 2011: Total amount of the investment portfolio – 61,943,043 GEL**



**Samtskhe-Javakheti District, 2011: Total amount of the investment portfolio – 49,798,520GEL**



**(2) Goals of the Village support program<sup>39</sup> are:**

- a. Directing sums for financing first rank socio-economic needs of the villages – reconstruction-rehabilitation of local infrastructure facilities, upgrading works and others;
- b. Supporting citizens’ engagement in realization of self-governance;
- c. Deepening relations between citizens and self-governing bodies;
- d. Increasing level of independence of self-government.

40 mln GEL were allocated from the state budget for the implementation of the program; this sum was supplemented by the co-financing from the budgetary funds of local self-governing body and funds from donor and international organizations.

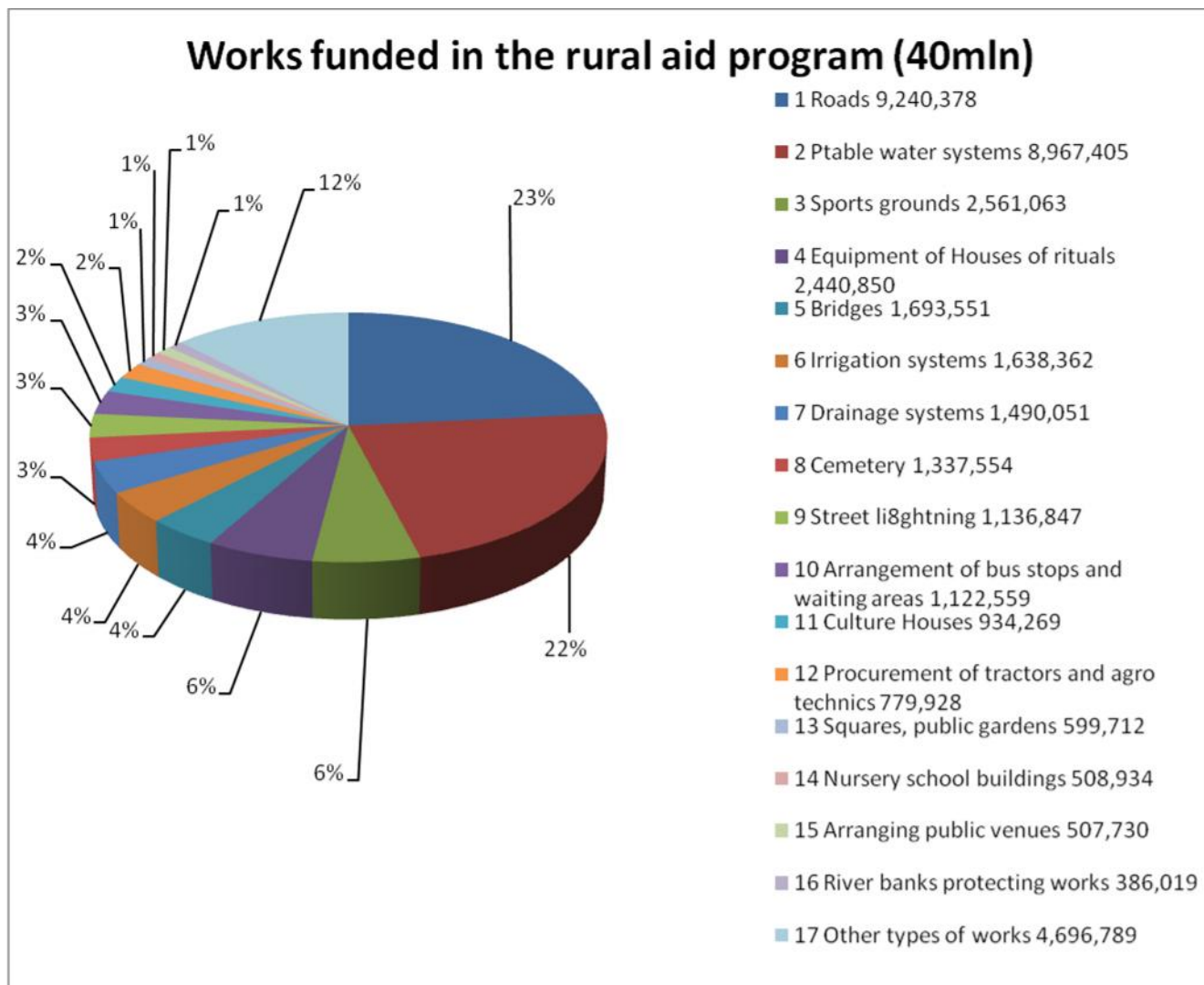
Purposiveness of spending the allocated sum is agreed with village population; respective village population is employed as much as possible.

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.mrdi.gov.ge/?page=rightgv&id=5&lang=1>

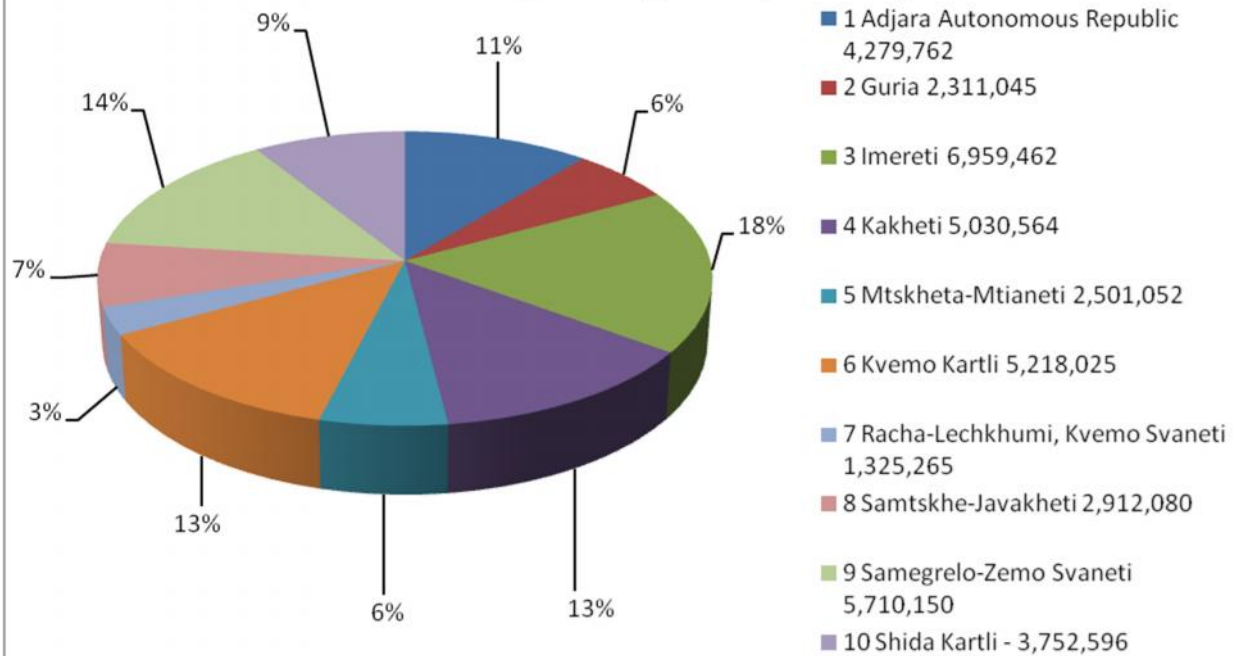


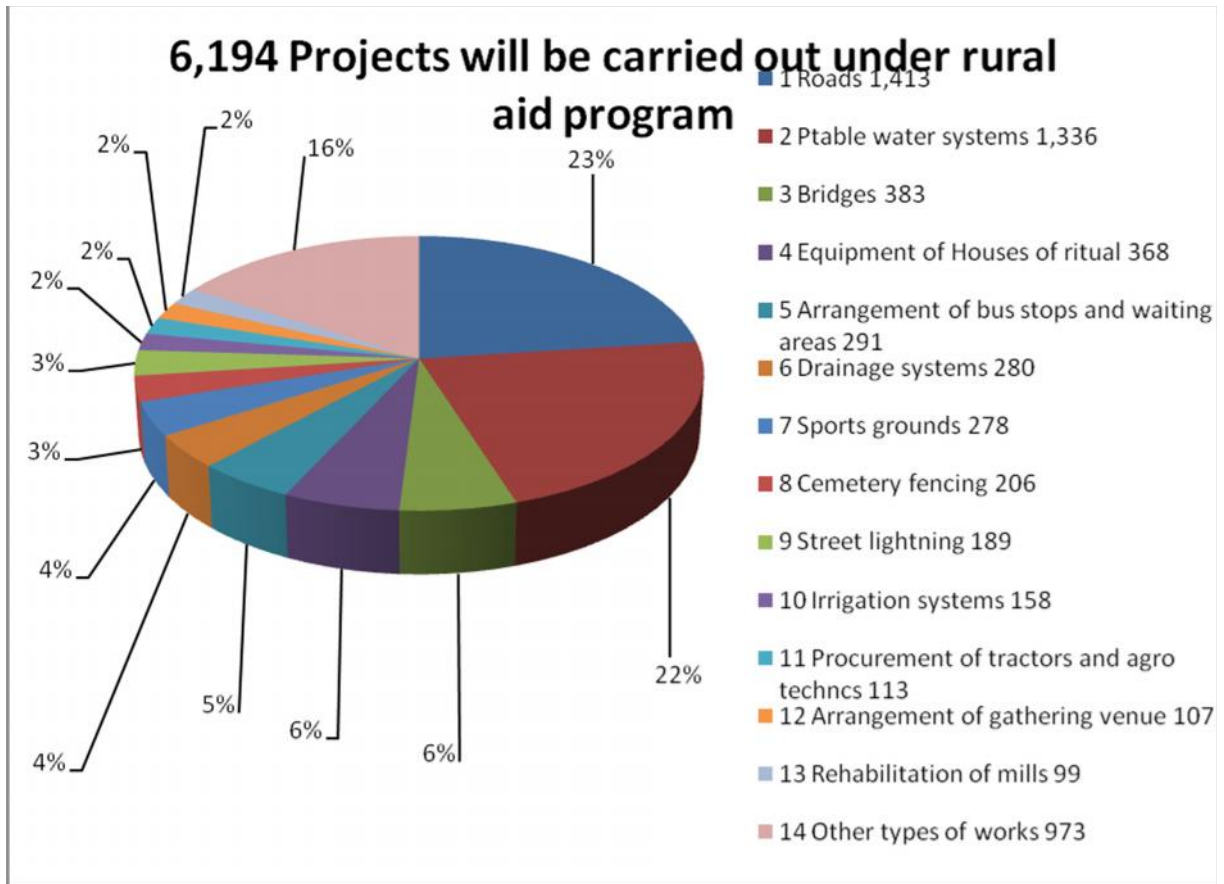
Activities realized under the *village program* in 2011 according to the priorities, regions and sectors:

Information on rural aid program, 2011



## Works funded within the rural aid program according to regions (40mln)





### (3) Amelioration of educational, tourism and rural infrastructure

On the ground of appeal of *Kvemo Kartli region Dmanisi municipality* village of Ozmano population and on the basis of the motion by the representative of the *Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration, Dmanisi municipality* conducted rehabilitation of the Azerbaijani public school. Also *Marneuli municipality* local assembly/Local government body decided to allot additional funds for the rehabilitation works of the village Shulaveri irrigation water.

Gombori highway rehabilitation connected Tbilisi with the villages in Pankisi gorge mountainous areas. With the purpose of tourism development various kinds of tourist and infrastructure facilities are being built in the gorge.

School buildings were repaired in the *Kvareli municipality* villages inhabited by Avarian of Tivi and Saruso and village of the same municipality Tsitskanaantkevi inhabited by Ossetians.

Sports grounds were fixed and repaired in the village of Chatliskhure populated by Avarians and village of Zinobiani populated by Udis. Local infrastructure was repaired in the villages inhabited by small ethnic groups such as Udis, Gypsies, Assyrians, Kurds, Yiezdies - in Kakheti region.

## Professional training and employment

Based the Documents of Professional Education Reform *the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia* has been implementing state programs since 2009 and considers necessary measures for various groups of citizens, including ethnic minorities. Increase in number of students from ethnic minorities at the *Professional Colleges*<sup>40</sup> has been observed since 2011.

82 principles of Azerbaijanian schools in May-June, 2011 and 74 in November-December took intensive 6 week Georgian language course at the *Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration* in Kutaisi. In October-November, 2011, 85 Armenian school principals took intensive 6 week Georgian language course. In July, 2011 on the basis of agreement reached between the *Ministries of Education and Science of Georgia and Armenia*, 96 teachers of Armenian Language, literature and Armenian History received training in the methods of modern pedagogy.

In the realm of rural economy, in the pursuit of establishing and developing small size rural economy and associations, to the end of involving ethnic minorities in it, *Kakheti Regional Development Agency* held teaching course for entrepreneurs including non-Georgian ones during the year 2011 for learning existing practice of obtaining funds, loans and grants.

*Ministry of Internal Affairs* employs representatives of minorities in its forces. Ministry of Internal Affairs gives a priority to hiring minorities in ethnically populated regions; following data is compiled on the basis of self-identification.

- Number of ethnic Azerbaijani police officers employed at the Ministry of Internal Affairs equaled 152 persons in 2007. This figure reached 298 by 2011;
- Number of ethnic Armenian police officers employed at the Ministry of Internal Affairs totaled 323 people in 2007. This indicator reached 515 in 2011;
- It should also be noted that census of the people employed at the Ministry of Internal Affairs on national basis is voluntary and is realized based on the desire of the employees.

Since 2007 Georgian citizens – minority representatives – has been trained at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs<sup>41</sup>; in 2011 the Academy trained:

- 42 participants at the basic training course of the precinct officers;
- 30 participants at the basic training course of the Patrol Police;
- 20 citizens were trained and current employees re-trained at the Georgian Language learning center of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

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<sup>40</sup> <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=215&lang=geo>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.policeacademy.ge/>

## **Social protection and mobility**

Central Government is undertaking measures in every region to ameliorate registration process for non-Georgian population and to ensure the process of furnishing social aid and assistance allocated for them by the government.

Meetings were held with non-Georgian citizens in Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti regions in 2011 organized by *the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration, National Centre for Disease Control and Public Healthcare, National Screening Centre and “Georgian Foundation for Healthcare and Education” and funded by European Union.*

State programs on cancer screening, tobacco prevention, physical activity, general hygiene and healthy nourishment were presented. With the purpose of increasing the citizen involvement in state funded programs informational material was distributed in Azeri, Armenian and Russian languages.

In 2011 “*Legal Entity of Public Law - Healthcare Insurance Mediation Service*” was carrying out the project – “Informing national and ethnical minorities on functions and services of the Healthcare Insurance Mediation Service”.

Due to the fact that medical insurance and insurance mediation services are relatively new fields in Georgia, citizens often are not properly informed about these services and their rights in these fields and accordingly they cannot obtain full medical service. Considering the abovementioned, it’s important to raise social awareness of the insurance principles, mediation service functions and means of communication to make use of necessary services in timely and purposeful manner.

Mediation service banner and informational brochure have been designed which have been translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Informational meetings have been planned and held with Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti population. Meetings have been held in Rustavi, Tsalka and Tetri Tskharo, Kvemo Kartli regions. Meetings have been held with Akhalkalaki population, Samtskhe-Javakheti region. Brochures, banners and mediation service hot line contact numbers have also been circulated to local medical institutions and regional branches of *social service agency*<sup>42</sup>.

### **Project “Providing national/ethnic minorities with information on state guarantees in social field”**

*Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs* provides socially vulnerable population with various social guarantees. For obtaining social guarantees, they should be fully informed on using state social programs. *Social Service Agency* designed 3 types of informational brochures on using various social guarantees:

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<sup>42</sup> <http://ssa.gov.ge/>

1. Financial aid for the families below the minimum level of subsistence;
2. State pension
3. State health insurance program;

Brochures were translated into Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages and were disseminated *via* the Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti *regional branches of the agency*. Social workers of the regional branches also spread brochures during their visits to families and clarify in detail rules of obtaining and using social guarantees.

### **Project “Regular information of Georgian national/ethnic minorities about ongoing reforms in healthcare and social fields in the country”**

For supporting civil integration, it is important that the Ministry should have an effective communication with citizens and various public organizations, with the purpose of their full and timely information, active involvement in the process and planning of joint programs.

Project has been implemented by non-governmental organization “*Partnership for social initiatives*”, funded by the US International Development Agency and in cooperation with the Ministry. Meetings with non-Georgian speaking population, NGOs and mass media representatives have been held. Representatives of the Ministry, insurance mediation agency, international organizations and representatives of the insurance companies acting in the region participated in the meeting. Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti population received additional information on the reforms introduced in Hospital sector development.

## **6. Preservation of culture and self-identity**

Georgia is a multicultural country. Citizens of various nationalities and confessions living in Georgia have their communities, non-governmental organizations, supporting **preservation and development of their culture**. The state makes contributions to these actions through supporting subsidized state organizations or providing support to national minorities regarding their involvement in various cultural events held in the state.

Preservation-development of culture of national minorities, promotion, self-expression and supporting their further integration in Georgia is transpired systematically. Representatives of Jewish, Russian, Armenian, Azerbaijani and other nations possess their professional and amateur theatres, folk ensembles, periodicals, libraries, art schools, culture houses.

These organizations foster to preserve cultural variety of national minorities, existing cross-cultural dialogue, protecting human rights and freedoms, including right of self-expression recognized by the Constitution of Georgia. Funding of state national minority organizations, as well as other organizations is incremental.

*Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection* designed “National Minority Culture Support Programme”, under which many interesting initiatives are funded (see annex N 2 for details).

Cultural days of fraternal nations and countries are often held in Georgia and vice versa, where representatives of Georgian national minorities are actively involved.

A joint project of *Tbilisi City Hall*<sup>43</sup> and N 98 Public School (where teachers and students of 16 different nations are represented) under the title “Tbilisi – city of tolerance” has been implemented since 2010 and the project aims at making Tbilisi, Baku and Yerevan school students and their parents and teachers friends.

Within this project Day of the Georgian Language was celebrated on April, 14, 2011 in one of the lycees in Yerevan; joint conference, concert and other events were held. In December 2011 conferences and New Year educational-information events with participation of pupils were also held in Tbilisi.

With co-participation of the Tbilisi City Hall and Georgian Writers Creative Union innovative educational-cultural project “Library on wheels – Tbilisi evenings” lasted throughout the whole 2011. Writers, Musicians, Singers, painters, composers and actors from Tbilisi held cognitive evening events with Assyrian, Armenian and Azerbaijanian schools and university students, pensioners and people with disabilities in various districts of Tbilisi.

Armenian, Azerbaijanian, Kurd and Assyrian writers and public figures participated in Christmas literature events organized by the “Golden Foundation” in Tbilisi.

**Significant contribution has been made by the *National Library of the Parliament of Georgia* into formation of civil awareness, preservation of cultural identity and cultural heritage of national and ethnic minorities in 2011** (See detailed information on various events supporting cultural integration in Annex N3).

With the purpose of supporting national minorities to participate in the country’s cultural life and protecting their cultural heritage, number of cultural events was held in the regions of Georgia throughout 2011. (See Annex #4)

### **Protecting cultural heritage of national minorities**

*Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Monument Protection of Georgia* implements inventory of Immovable Monuments and objects of Cultural Heritage located on the territory of the country in conformity with the law on “*Cultural Heritage*” with the purpose of their further protection and care. Currently there are registered:

- Up to 50 eparchies of Holy Orthodox Apostolic church of Armenians, including in: Tbilisi, Batumi, Kakheti, Bolnisi, Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities;

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<sup>43</sup> <http://new.tbilisi.gov.ge/>

- 37 Islamic buildings – Mosques and James, including in: Tbilisi, Batumi, Adigeni, Khelvachauri, Chokhatauri, Kobuleti, Qedi, Khulo municipalities.
- 5 synagogues, including in: Tbilisi, Sukhumi, Tsageri, Oni; Restoration was held in Oni synagogue;
- 4 residential houses of Dukhobors in the village of Gorelovka, Ninotsminda district;

Immovable monument of cultural heritage status conferral process to more than 20 Muslime monuments in Akhaltsikhe, Aspindza and Adigeni municipalities was underway during 2011. The reinforcement works were conducted with respect to the Holy Orthodox Apostolic churches of Armenians

- Norasheni – 16,950 GEL
- Mognisi – 9,855 GEL;
- Sourb-nishani – 21,950 GEL

Renovation works to Sourb-nishani church are planned to be commenced in 2012; 113,730 GEL have been allocated for the works.

### **Supporting the Tolerance Aspiration and Unions**

Number of initiatives and programs were carried out by the *Ministry of Sport and youth affairs*<sup>44</sup> of Georgia during 2011, which was aimed at deepening tolerance, establishing crossculture dialogue and intensifying dialogues, including with participation of representatives of national and ethnical minorities.

#### **“Patrioti” Program**

*International Youth Camp “Patrioti”* is a non-formal educational and entertaining-cognitive program initiated by the President of Georgia, which is targeted at:

- Opportunity of getting informal education for the young;
- Improving physical, spiritual and intellectual potential;
- Social integration;
- Establishing friendly relationships between the youth from various countries and developing cross-cultural dialogue;
- Promotion of active and healthy lifestyle.

One of the priorities of the program “Patrioti” is active involvement of the representatives of national minorities residing in Georgia in Anaklia “Patrioti Camp”.

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<sup>44</sup> <http://msy.gov.ge/>



Anaklia International Youth Camp “Patrioti 2011” was opened on 25 May, 2011 and it hosted 3,400 young people during the year. Anaklia Patrioti camp hosted 13 flows out of which in 8 flows participated representatives of ethnical minorities.

Representatives of ethnical minorities were placed with their Georgian peers which increased the level of their integration and inclusion. There were specially trained teachers of Georgian language in the camp who delivered Georgian language lessons on a daily bases.

From Akhaltsikhe	55
From Adigeni	50
From Aspindza	50
From Ninotsminda	50
From Akhalkalaki	100
<b>From Samtskhe-Javakheti Total:</b>	<b>305 Participants</b>
From Gardabani	30
From Bolnisi	100
From Tetrtskharo	90
From Dmanisi	75
From Marneuli	100
<b>From Khvemo Kartli Total:</b>	<b>395 395 Participants</b>

### “Youth development and involvement” Project

Within the project funded by the *Japanese Government* 8 regional youth centers were opened in 2011 – in Lentekhi, Marneuli, Gori, Ambrolauri, Zugdidi, Akhaltsikhe, Gurjaani, Vartsikhe.

It grants the local youth the opportunity of spending their free time reasonably, developing new skills as well as supporting their business ideas and involving in public life. *Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia* additionally backed up other specific initiatives and projects in 2011 (See Annex #5).

## Annexes:

### Annex N1: Interagency coordination

Meetings of the State Inter-Agency Commission set up with the aim of implementing National Conception of Tolerance and Civil Integration and Action Plan were held on a regular basis in 2011; mainly the following issues were discussed during the meetings:

- Methodical approaches and principles related to preparing an updated and simplified model of the 2011 action plan and also practical recommendations for its compilation;
- Members of the commission regularly submitted reports and made performed thematic presentations about the action plan accomplishment process by the agencies in 2011;
- Issues of Intermediary evaluation of the implementation process of projects/events considered under the 2011 action plan;
- Methodical approaches and instructions related to 2011 annual report as well as necessary recommendations for its framing;
- Interagency coordination forms and procedures;
- Needs of necessary trainings to be delivered to the members of the commission;
- In April, 2011 training for the commission members was held on the topic of “Application of modern information-communication technologies in governmental offices”;
- In October, 2011 training for the commission members was provided led by *ECMI* deputy director on the topic of “Minority Issues Mainstreaming in Georgia”;
- 2 of the Commission sessions were chaired by the Vice-Premier, State Minister for Reintegration;
- On February 9, 2011 sessions of the *Tolerance and Civil Integration Council under the auspices of the President of Georgia* was held, where the first Deputy Minister for Reintegration and employees of the office reported to the members of the Council on the activities realized in 2010 and presented 2011 action plan; all the remarks, opinions and recommendations made by the council members are set out in the 2011 action plan final edition;
- In March 29, 2011 broadened meeting was held between the Commission, Tolerance Centre under the auspices of the Public Defender’s Office and the members of the National Minority Council; the meeting was led by the Vice-Premier, State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration and Ombudsman of Georgia.

In total, during 2011, 10 of the commission sessions were held, including 6 field seatings in various towns and urban settlements of Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions.

Responsible employees of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration, other members of the commission and the heads of specially invited agencies, jointly conducted around 20 field sessions in various regions of the country, held on site meetings with local residents, representatives of non-governmental organizations and media, local executive bodies and local council employees, deputies and local leadership, community representatives, heads of the village executive bodies and other interested citizens during the year. They delivered information on actions carried out with regard to minorities, initiated new projects, amendments to the acting legislation, existing environment, practice, problems and future plans; distributed printed reports,

plans, compendia of normative acts and the new edition of the Constitution, their translations, dictionaries and other publications.

With the purpose of supporting complex socio-economic development of municipalities special field sessions with participation of competent representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Public Procurement Agency was organized by the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration in 2011.

### **Coordinated cooperation with Civil and International Community**

*Under the organization of the State Committee of Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan* dedicated to the 20 years of independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan three-day conference was held in Batumi attended by Vice Prime Minister, State Minister for Reintegration and other representatives of the Government; perspectives of mutual collaboration were discussed.

Employees of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration and the members of the Interagency Commission held several meetings with the representatives of non-governmental organizations functioning in the Council under the auspices of the President of Georgia, in the Council of Gender Equality under the auspices of the Parliament of Georgia and in the Council of Minorities under the auspices of the Ombudsman of Georgia during 2011.

Additionally, during the course of the year, dozens of meetings were held with the diplomatic representatives in the country, donors and officials of international organizations. Goal of the meetings was not only current discussions or establishing future collaboration and defining issues of donor funding, but also discussing the progress of action plan implementation and analysis of annual results, review of recommendations offered by civil society activists with regard to 2011 action plan.

Several important events were held in Akhalkalaki with the participation of international organizations in 2011:

- Meeting which was attended by the representatives of the State University of Armenia, international as well as local representatives of non-governmental organizations active in Georgia and media. Consequences of the reforms carried out in Samtskhe-Javakheti region in the fields of economy and agriculture in recent years were discussed at the meeting.
- With the support of “Javakheti civil forum” meeting-discussion with non-governmental organizations, media representatives and municipality employees on the topic “Georgia’s perspective regarding accession to NATO” have taken place.
- With the support of National Endowment for Democracy the meeting has been organized during which was discussed the current projects in the region and analyzed the results of recent years reforms; educational reform has been called the most successful one;

## **Using modern technologies**

A new official web-page – SMR.GOV.GE of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration was developed in 2011. Separate thematic segment was built in this web-page -“*Civil Integration*”, which in turn is divided into 4 *thematic rubrics*: (1) *The Concept and the national action plan*; (2) *Legislation*; (3) *Calendar*; (4) *Statistics of demography*.

One more new rubric – (5) *State Institutions* - is being prepared. Along with other useful information, news, photo and video footage documents on national legislation and international normative instruments, action plans, reports, projects, methodic materials, population statistics, mission of the Office of the State Minister, personnel of regional representatives will be published on this important web-resource.

In 2011 [IC@SMR.GOV.GE](mailto:IC@SMR.GOV.GE) united communicational register –created for public services acting in human rights protection and civil integration fields was operating. For the quick information of civil society acting in the country and interested in this field, Tolerance Centre under the auspices of the Public Defender’s Office and councils existing within its framework, for networks of non-governmental organizations acting in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti Region, Media representatives, interested students from University and Academic circles, for masters, doctors, scientists, researchers – [CS@SMR.GOV.GE](mailto:CS@SMR.GOV.GE) – a new united communication electronic register was developed (Currently it incorporates up to 200 e-mails of physical persons and organizations).

From 2012, through this new electronic resource every interested person of civil society will be forwarded thematically grouped governmental news, decision of the State Inter-Agency Commission and material reflecting its activities, news from the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration, electronic news, press-releases, publications, normative acts and amendments to them, so called “Newsletters” and other quickly and cheaply exchangeable information on the activities of the Governmental bodies.

## **Annex N 2: Preserving self-identity of national minorities**

- *Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia* participated in implementation of several projects; in particular: organizing festival “Under One Sky” jointly with The Office of the State Minister for Reintegration, non-governmental organization (CiDA) and Kvemo Kartli administration in Marneuli.
- Students of the folk ensemble “Sarvani” under the auspices of Marneuli Azerbaijanian Culture Centre were given a gift - Georgian national dance costumes and other items;
- *Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection* funded the publication of the book “Mtkvar-Araqsi” by the David Baazov Georgian Jew History Museum and other scientific researches.
- In the *Mirza Phatali Akhundov Museum of Azerbaijan Culture* carpet exhibition was funded; a memorial evening event was organized in the museum dedicated to

Akhundov; Museum also held 17 events of different content and participation including events with Tbilisi Azerbaijanian school students, Azerbaijani school students from other regions of Georgia and others. The Museum was granted computer equipment.

- “*Caucasian Countries Jazz Festival*” was held;
- *Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection* funded the Al. Griboedov Russian Drama Theatre participation in the Tbilisi International Theatre Festival (Presented by the play “Marriage”).
- An evening dedicated to Georgian Jews was organized in the “Veriko” theatre;
- The *P. Adamiani Armenian Drama Theatre* play “Pepo” dedicated to 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence of Armenia was staged in Al. Griboedov Russian Drama Theatre.
- Several translations – Givi Shakhnazari translation of Nahapet Quchakhi “Hundred and One Haereni” (In Georgian and Armenian Languages), Igor Obolenski “Fate of a woman” and “The price of honor” (in Russian, French and English Languages) were published in the framework of the program “Supporting Book and Literary publications”.

**Annex N 3: Supportive events of cultural integration organized by the National Library in collaboration with partner non-governmental or international organizations in its exhibition space.**

- With the purpose of cross-cultural dialogue and raising civil awareness “*Round Table*” multi-cultural society was conducted by *The Office of the State Minister for Reintegration*. Students studying at various universities on the basis the so called “1+4” scheme that was enforced by the amendment to the law on education and represent various ethnic groups, presented their own works. Works were dedicated to the preservation of their culture and self-identity, ways of cohabitation and to recent governmental, parliamentary and state decisions on supporting minority integration.
- Presentation of the book: “Tbilisi Armenian community: problems and perspectives” published by the *Union of Georgian Armenian “Nor Serundi”*;
- *Union “Haiartun”* held presentation of the Member of Georgian Writers Union Anahit Bostanjian;
- *Union “Haiartun”* organized presentation of the member of Georgian Writers Union Givi Shahnazari’s book “Saiatnova”;
- Presentation of the book “*Armenian Genocide in Georgian periodicals in 1914-1918*” was organized under the aegis of *EAFD (European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy) Georgian Office* and the “Community of Georgian Armenians”.
- Georgian Armenian Writers’ Union “*Vernaturi*” meeting was held;
- Exhibition-meeting “Dukhobores in Georgia” was organized by *The Office of the State Minister for Reintegration and Ethnic Russian Women Union “Yaroslavna”*, dedicated to 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of compulsory resettlement of Dukhobores to the Caucasus;

- Creative evening of Dagestani poet, artist and director Ali Isayev-Avarski who is dwelling in Georgia was held with the organization of Georgian Women’s Council and Georgian Cinematographers Union;
- Exhibition of paintings by modern Kurdish painters and pieces of cultural heritage; Books on the Kurd culture and literature protected in the *National library* were prepared for the exhibition; exhibition was held in collaboration with non-governmental organization “Georgian Kurds Youth Association”; they were also given all the electronic versions of the book;
- Union of Georgian Belarus Community “Siabri” held artistic soiree dedicated to the famous Belarusian poetess Valentina Polikanina;
- Presentation of Adam Mickiewicz’s poem “Pan Tadeusz” unknown translation with the support of *the Polish Embassy*; Translation belongs to famous Georgian public figure, writer - Vitali Ugrekheldze; translation was edited and prepared for publication by Georgian scientist David Kholbaia acting in Poland; this translation was published by the Warsaw University with the financial aid from Polish Embassy in Georgia;
- *Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania* held presentation of the album “Abkhazia XIX Century” funded by Lithuanian businessmen; the album was the result of almost decade-long work of Georgian and Abkhaz parties; unique material was searched and organized in the form of an album by the Georgian-Abkhazian Relationship Institute.

**Annex N4: Public and religious holidays, modern and folk music concerts, festivals and artistic events of national minorities carried out in the region**

National Holiday “Novruz bairam” has been celebrated in Marneuli, with the participation of the high ranking officials of the Georgian Government. They congratulated and addressed local Azerbaijani population. The international day of tolerance was solemnly celebrated in Marneuli on 16 November 2011. A multiethnic concert took place (with partaking of artistic groups from Rustavi, Gardabani, Bolnisi and Marneuli and the young musicians from music schools) and trees were symbolically planted. The Russian ensemble “Dmanisuri Aisi ”(Dmanisi dawn) participated in the national festival “Artgeni 2011”.

During the year, public and religious holidays were organized in the regions of the country, in which alongside with Georgian population participated representatives of the non-Georgian population , craftsmen, painters and musicians were invited from ethnic minorities. The regional ethnographical festival “ Voices of Javakheti” and youth festival were held *in Samtskhe-Javakheti*. In the village of Gandza, Ninotsminda municipality public holidays “Terianoba” took place – the day of Armenian poetry”; in the village of Eshtia – “The day of Victor Hovsephian’s poetry” ; in village of Gorelovka – Dukhobor’s community holiday “Tovlmophenoba (snow covering the land )”.

The traditional public holidays were held in the municipality of Akhalkalaki – the public holiday “Jivanoba” in the village of Kartsakhi, also the international folk festival. The Armenian amateur groups of Ninotsminda and Akhalkalaki with the support of Municipalities have systematically participated in various festivals held throughout the country, particularly – in festivals

“Alami”(Flag), “Tbilisi-the capital city of peaceful Caucasus” held in Tbilisi, festival “Harmony of the sea” which took place in Batumi; The groups were participating in festivals organized in Armenia too.

In “the festival of bread” which has already turned into tradition and is conducted by “*Elkana*” the *Bio-diversity Association* and municipality of Akhaltsikhe, together with representatives from different parts of Georgia, the folk craftsmen were also participating, they presented the patterns of Armenian folk craftsmanship; During the Armenian cuisine festival, alongside with Georgian dishes, was presented the bread made by a traditional Armenian technology.

The presentation-inauguration of ethnographical museum of Pankisi valley was conducted by the municipality of Akhmeta and with participation of the *Office of the State Minister for Reintegration* with the aim to present the culture and identity, reflect the mode of life, promote development and preserve historical heritage of Tushs, Kistians, Phshavelians and Ossetians - the various ethnic groups sharing the Pankisi valley. *The office of the State Minister for reintegration* gave as a gift computer equipment and other items to the ethnographical museum of Pankisi valley.

The exhibition of children’s work opened in the Elene Axvlediani children’s gallery in Tbilisi by the support of *the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration*, the regional administration of Kvemo Kartli and the “*Agency of Civil Development*” where the patterns of painting, shaping, embroidery, knitting including carpet weaving of ethnic Azerbaijani children aged from 9 till 17 residing in Marneuli were presented.

The Azerbaijani children have created these works at art groups existing within “*UNION*”-non-governmental organization in Marneuli. By the vehicle of their joint organization, the children from internally displaced families residing in village of Shaumiani have been taken to Marneuli for attending sport events. The friendly games have been organized in football, tennis and chess.

The children’s art exhibition was held in the building of regional administration in Rustavi. The pupils of public school N18 of Rustavi and Azerbaijani public schools of Marneuli presented their own handmade things and painting works. Also the non-Georgian speaking artists were actively participating in the exhibition held in arts gallery of K. Iashvili in Telavi, Kakheti.

The Haidar Aliev Tbilisi’s Azerbaijani Dramatic Theatre has been given an opportunity to stage the performance “Mkvleli (killer)” in a small hall of Mardjanishvili State Theatre by the motion of *the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration*.

Trough the organization and financial support of the “*Caucasian fund*” and *the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration*, the memorial evening “*The tragic pages of XX century’s Caucasian history*” was dedicated to the deportation of Caucasian people.

At the end of soiree the film “From past to future” was shown which reflects the genocide of Caucasian people (directed by Murad Oziev – Ingush republic). Additionally, the action “We

remember” was organized to demonstrate solidarity to deported people from the Caucasus (muhadjiroba) with the participation of the “*International Union of Young Caucasians*”.

Chechen poet Aphti Bisultanov’s poetry collection “The book of poetry’s” Georgian translation’s presentation took place in Tbilisi by the financial support of “*The Caucasus Fund*”. The book was handed to the Chechen and Kistian refugees residing in Georgia free of charge, also it was sent to Chechen Republic and the Chechen Diasporas residing in Europe. The evening of a famous Russian composer Andrei Petrov was held in Tbilisi organized by the Russian club in Georgia and the Tbilisi Griboedov Dramatic Theatre.

**Annex N 5: The following initiatives and projects were supported by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia in the course of 2011**

- “*The Azerbaijani students association of Georgia*” – The establishment of youth center for learning Georgian language in Gardabani Municipality;
- “*The united youth initiative*” – establishment of a tolerant relationship;
- “*The Youth opinion*” – the Caucasus and conflicts;
- “*The students for the development of civil society*” – the civil integration of ethnic minorities;
- The meetings of representatives of student self-government of the Tbilisi State University and the Georgian Technical University with ethnic minorities;
- The international tournament in Judo was held in Bolnisi in which young wrestlers from Georgia, Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia were participating;
- “Football for fun” - The children’s football competition was organized in Dmanisi (comprising 192 participants).