



**Office of the State Minister of Georgia
for Reintegration Issues**

State Inter-Agency Commission

**Annual Report 2010
On Completion of National Concept on Tolerance
and Civil Integration and Action Plan**

January – December 2010

With the aim of completing the *National Concept on Tolerance and Civil Integration and Action Plan 2009-2014* the present joint complex report on activities undertaken in 2010 has been prepared by the Government of Georgia, as well as Office of the Public Defender, Tbilisi Mayor's Office and sakrebulo, regional administration and local self-government of Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti. The present report has been elaborated by the joint working group of the State Inter-Agency Commission members and Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration Issues.

DENMARK'S GEORGIA PROGRAMME 2010-2013
PROMOTION OF JUDICIAL REFORM,
HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS

დანის საქართველოს პროგრამა 2010-2013
საბანაშორლო რეფორმის, ადამიანისა და
უმცირესობათა უფლებების ხელშეწყობა



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Official website: http://www.smr.gov.ge/ge/ethnic_minorities

Action Plan 2010: http://smr.gov.ge/ge/ethnic_monorities/history

Report 2010: http://www.smr.gov.ge/uploads/2010_Annual_Report_ge.pdf

Other useful web links: <http://www.ecmcaucasus.org/> ; <http://diversity.ge/geo/>

Introduction

According to the Decree #348 as of May 8, 2009 of the Government of Georgia¹, “**National Concept on Tolerance and Civil Integration and Action Plan 2009-2014**” was adopted². According to this act, **Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues**³ was tasked with elaboration and coordination of policy towards national minorities, as well as presentation of annual reports each December to the **Georgian Government and Council at the Office of the President**⁴. With the aim of coordinated fulfillment of this process and based on the Order #14⁵ as of July 3, 2009 of the Vice Prime Minister, State Minister for Reintegration Issues a **State Inter-Agency Commission**⁶ was established.

Members of the Commission include leadership and authorized staff of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues, as well as representatives of corresponding state institutions, ministries, bodies and organizations, Tbilisi sakrebulo and regional administration of three regions compactly inhabited by national minorities:

- ❖ *Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues*
- ❖ *Office of the National Security Council*
- ❖ *Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection*
- ❖ *Ministry of Labour, Health Care and Social Protection*
- ❖ *Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure*
- ❖ *Ministry of Justice*
- ❖ *Ministry of Sports and Youth Issues*
- ❖ *Ministry of Education and Science*
- ❖ *Center of National Curriculum and Evaluation*
- ❖ *Center of Teachers’ Professional Development*
- ❖ *National Examination Center*
- ❖ *Central Election Commission*
- ❖ *Office of Public Defender*
- ❖ *Public Broadcaster*
- ❖ *“Millennium Challenge Georgia” Foundation*
- ❖ *Tbilisi sakrebulo*
- ❖ *Administration of the State Representative – Governor in Kvemo Kartli*
- ❖ *Administration of the State Representative – Governor in Samtskhe-Javakheti*
- ❖ *Administration of the State Representative – Governor in Kakheti*

¹ http://www.smr.gov.ge/uploads/file/gankarguleba%20%23348_080509.pdf

² <http://www.smr.gov.ge/uploads/file/geo.pdf>

³ <http://www.smr.gov.ge/ge/home>

⁴ <http://diversity.ge/geo/resources.php?coi=0|12|13|13>

⁵ http://www.smr.gov.ge/uploads/file/brdzaneba%20%2314_03_07_09.pdf ;

http://www.smr.gov.ge/uploads/file/brdzaneba%20%237_22_03_10.pdf

⁶ <http://www.smr.gov.ge/uploads/file/IAC-sia-rekvizitebi.pdf>

Commission successfully cooperates with the corresponding committee of the Parliament of Georgia⁷, bodies of local self-government, office of the Public Defender and Center of Tolerance⁸, National Library of the Parliament of Georgia⁹, civil society and international organizations. Commission conducts systematic meetings with various thematic agenda.

With the aim of fulfilling goals, principles and approaches of the National Concept on Tolerance and Civil Integration, Georgian governmental bodies (ministries and other legal entities of public law) as well as Tbilisi Mayor's Office and Sakrebulo, regional administrations and municipal local self-government bodies of Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti have elaborated **detailed Action Plan for 2010**¹⁰.

It must be mentioned that the present **complex report on activities conducted in 2010**¹¹ has been elaborated as the result of intensive work of **joint working group of State Inter-Agency Commission**¹² and **Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration Issues**¹³.

During drafting both Action Plan 2010 and annual report as well as in organizational and financial issues, Government of Georgia was actively assisted by three international programmes:

- ✚ “*Programme on National Integration and Tolerance of Georgia*”¹⁴ – UN Association of Georgia (UNA Georgia¹⁵), USAID¹⁶
- ✚ “*Danish Georgia Programme 2010-2013 for Court Reform, Human and Minority Rights Promotion*” – European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI¹⁷), Council of Europe¹⁸, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark¹⁹
- ✚ “*Support of the Office of Public Defender of Georgia*”²⁰ - UNDP Georgia²¹.

⁷ http://www.parliament.ge/index.php?sec_id=252&lang_id=GEO

⁸ <http://ombudsman.ge/index.php?page=63&lang=0>

⁹ <http://www.nplg.gov.ge/>

¹⁰ http://smr.gov.ge/ge/ethnic_monorities/history - see last block of this webpage

¹¹ http://www.smr.gov.ge/uploads/2010_Annual_Report_ge.pdf

¹² <http://www.smr.gov.ge/uploads/file/IAC-sia-rekvizitebi.pdf>

¹³ http://smr.gov.ge/ge/ethnic_monorities/documents/doc1

¹⁴ <http://diversity.ge/geo/aboutrcg.php>

¹⁵ <http://www.una.ge/geo/>

¹⁶ <http://georgia.usaid.gov/index.php?m=2&lang=geo>

¹⁷ <http://ecmcaucasus.org/>

¹⁸ <http://www.coe.int/> ; <http://portal.coe.ge/>

¹⁹ <http://www.um.dk/en>

²⁰ http://undp.org.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=40&pr_id=73

²¹ http://undp.org.ge/index.php?sec_id=1&lang_id=GEO

National Concept Direction #1. Rule of Law

Priority Task 1.2. Improvement of Access to Justice System for National Minorities

In order to make national minorities able to fulfill their constitutional rights and make sure that lack of knowledge of the state language does not obstacle access to the justice system, Ministry of Reintegration translated and published main legislative acts into languages of national minorities – Azeri, Armenian and Russian. Printed version of the translation was distributed in regions compactly inhabited by minorities, while electronic version is available on the official website of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues at: http://smr.gov.ge/ethnic_monorities/documents/national, and at <http://diversity.ge/geo/>, which has been jointly created by Council of Tolerance and Civil Integration at the Office of the President and UN Association.

Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Reintegration and Council at the Office of the President conduct regular meetings with Council of National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender where government representatives explain legislative regulations and discuss problematic issues typical for particular regions.

Population Registration and Legal Consultations:

In 2010 under cooperation of *Civil Registry Agency*, NGO “*Legal Development and Consultations Group*”, UNHCR²² and UNICEF²³ the following projects were conducted: “*Protection and Reduction of Number of Persons Without Citizenship in Georgia*”, “*Documentation of Involuntarily Displaced Persons*”, “*Registration and Naturalization of Refugees For Improvement of Social Services and Protection Access*” and “*Registration and Naturalization of Population For Improvement of Social Services and Protection Access*”. The main aim of the abovementioned projects was revealing and providing legal consultations to people without documents residing on the territory of Georgia, including among ethnic minority representatives.

The aim of the project “*Registration and Naturalization of Refugees For Improvement of Social Services and Protection Access*” was naturalization of persons of Chechen nationality involuntarily displaced from the Russian Federation and living in Akhmeta municipality. During the project in 2010 163 beneficiaries were identified, out of them 41 received Georgian citizenship, while 122 cases are in procession.

The aim of the project “*Registration and Naturalization of Population For Improvement of Social Services and Protection Access*” was identification and provision of legal assistance to representatives of population without documents. During the project 5232 beneficiaries without documents were identified, out of them 1140 belonging to representatives of ethnic minorities. 317 beneficiaries received legal assistance in the process.

²² <http://www.ungeorgia.ge/eng/UNHCR.php>

²³ <http://www.unicef.org/georgia/>

Priority Task #1.3. Provision of Effective Protection of National Minorities from Discriminative Attitudes

In order to provide effective protection of national minorities from discriminative attitudes, it is necessary for them to have information about their rights and freedoms. With this aim the following reference books were published and distributed:

- ✓ *“Norms Regulating Rights of National Minorities in International Law and Georgian National Legislation”* (under financing of USAID/UNAG programme);
- ✓ *“Georgian Legislation Concerning National Minorities – in Georgian, Azeri, Armenian and Russian languages”* (under financing of CoE/ECMI).

Prosecutor’s Programme oriented on society aims to increase of level of accountability and transparency of the Office of the Prosecutor General²⁴ and district offices of prosecutor. It also aims at providing information about society’s demands and problems to prosecutors from initial source and reacting on these demands and problems within their competencies. Another aim is to increase society’s trust towards the prosecutor. Special attention is paid to provision of information on rule of law, current legislation and legislative novelties to underage and other target groups, which will provide increase of law-abidance and prevention of committing crime.

Presently social projects of the prosecutor’s office are being carried out in 15 regional prosecutor’s offices, including Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli: in Tbilisi, Mtskheta, Akhaltsikhe, Zestaponi, Ozurgeti and Shuakhevi. The present projects are basically aimed at decrease of crime in the society by way of alternative measures, as well as prevention of discriminative attitudes. In the frameworks of the social prosecution projects Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia has completed various important measures in regions inhabited by ethnic minorities.

Priority Task #1.4. Awareness Raising of Public Officers Towards National Minority Rights and Anti-Discriminatory Legislation

- Under the organization of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure and Ministry of Regional Development of Poland, a series of trainings was conducted for the representatives of regional and municipal structures. With the aim of increasing qualification of public officers, various international and non-governmental organizations (*ECMI, CoE, UNDP GTZ, Center for Strategic Research, Center for Development, Study and Reform of the Election System, Center of Youth Education*) conduct educational programmes.

²⁴ http://www.justice.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=&sec_id=106

National Concept Direction #2. Education and State Language

Priority Task #2.1. Provision of Access to Pre-School Education to National Minorities

Preparation and Piloting Pre-School Educational Programmes Oriented on National Minorities Educational Needs

According to the order of the Minister of Education and Science, on March 31, 2009 a programme in Georgian language was approved. In its frameworks the Ministry conducts since 2009 a sub-programme – “*Promotion of Georgian Language Learning on the Pre-School Educational Level in Non-Georgian Regions*”; the aim of the sub-programme is to increase knowledge level of the Georgian language in non-Georgian regions by way of provision of high quality educational programmes to children of pre-school age.

In the frameworks of the pre-school educational programme of the *Ministry of Education and Science*²⁵, which is oriented at national minority educational needs, a group of experts (which consists of experts of Georgian as second language, pre-school education experts and illustrator) elaborated structure and first part of a text-book. Completion of the second part and piloting is planned in 2011 and will be conducted by the *Center for Curriculum and Assessment*²⁶.

In six municipalities of Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti (Dmanisi, Bolnisi, Marneuli, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda) schools were selected where rooms were equipped with corresponding inventory and educational materials for establishment of pre-school educational centers. *Center of National Curriculum and Assessment* is assisted by *UNICEF*²⁷ In accomplishment of the project.

Priority Task #2.2. Promotion of Access to Secondary Education for Representatives of National Minorities

1. Translation of text-books into languages of national minorities

Translation of accredited text-books into Armenian, Azeri and Russian languages for non-Georgian schools is continued by the *Center for National Curriculum and Assessment*. So far text-books for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th classes have been translated. For the educational year 2011-2012 the following text-books for the 4th and 10th classes are being translated into Russian, Armenian and Azeri languages: natural sciences (natural history, biology, physics), art studies and mathematics.

²⁵ <http://mes.gov.ge/>

²⁶ <http://www.ncac.ge/> ; <http://ganatleba.org/>

²⁷ <http://www.unicef.org/georgia/> ; <http://www.ungeorgia.ge/geo/UNICEF.php>

Translation was completed in January 2011. Thus approximately 8 months are left for binding and publication.

Within the frameworks of the *Sub-Programme for Improvement of Access to Text-Books for Students of Non-Georgian Sector*, in academic year 2009-2010 Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia distributed free of charge bilingual text-books of history and geography to students of the 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th and 12th classes. *Text-book for Georgian as second language* was also distributed free of charge to students of 1-4 classes of all non-Georgian schools. The budget of this *sub-programme* equals to GEL 639,210, number of students included in it complies 35,874 people, while number of books equals to 75,895 copies.

2. Improvement, Piloting and Implementation of Multilingual Education Policy

In 2010, based on the order of the Minister of Education and Science, *Programme for Promotion of Multilingual Education*²⁸ was approved. In the frameworks of the programme statutes, registration mechanisms and unified application form was elaborated and approved. According to the statutes and based on the order of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, *Council of Multilingual Education* was created and approved, engaging *Center for National Curriculum and Assessment* in its work. The mentioned Council provided review and approval of multilingual educational programmes submitted by institutions of general education.

With the aim of support of schools, three regional seminars (180 participants) in multilingual education were conducted in 2010 in Tbilisi, Marneuli and Akhalkalaki. Audio-video version of methodological film “*We Learn in Several Languages*” on multilingual education was prepared, released and translated into Azeri, Armenian, Russian, English and Ukrainian languages.

In the frameworks of the *Programme for Promotion of Multilingual Education* and with the support of the *OSCE Higher Commissioner in Minority Issues*, methodological resources (multilingual education teacher’s guide and multilingual education training modules) in multilingual studies were prepared for teachers and trainers, their publication is planned for the next year.

In the accounting period registration of 40 schools has started, a council was established which reviews and approves applications submitted by schools.

An important event in the frameworks of the multilingual programme was distribution of target subsidies to 40 pilot schools (which will be used for increase of salaries of teachers included in the programme). With the aim of effective implementation of the programme, 40 pilot schools were provided with visual aids in different subject groups.

²⁸ <http://mes.gov.ge/content.php?t=srch&search=მულტილინგვური&id=547&lang=geo> ;
<http://mes.gov.ge/content.php?t=srch&search=მულტილინგვური&id=1213&lang=geo>

With the support of Georgian UN Association and in the frameworks of the USAID programme, 40 pilot schools participating in the *Programme for Multilingual Education* were provided with support materials – TV sets, DVD players and collections of Georgian films and cartoons.

3. Provision of Receiving Education in National Minority Languages

Out of the total number of public schools on the territory of Georgia (2,131 school) 350 belong to schools of ethnic minorities: 89 Azeri, 12 Russian, 116 Armenian and 133 mixed (two or more language sectors). 40 out of the mentioned schools are included in the Programme for Multilingual Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

National educational contest 2010 was conducted in Armenian, Azeri and Russian languages. Winning students were selected based on the results of the third tour – among them representatives of national minorities.

In 2010 in the frameworks of the *Minority Languages Protection Sub-Programme* of the Ministry of Education and Science, financing of the Ossetian Sunday school on the basis of #11 public school was provided. In the Ossetian Sunday school students had the possibility to learn the Ossetian language, culture, history, folklore, Caucasian dances and songs.

Priority Task #2.3. Improvement of Access to Higher Education for Representatives of National Minorities

Implementation of Preparation and Integration Course in Higher Educational Institutions

- In 2010-2011 practical implementation of those changes applied to the law on higher education in November 2009 started, implying start of quotations system for last year school students belonging to national minorities. State higher education institutions are obliged to provide 5% of available places each to Azeri and Armenian-speaking students. Similar approach will apply to Abkhaz and Ossetian students (1% per each group) starting from 2012-2013. Students, who are required to pass only one exam – general skills – in their mother tongue, will be enrolled in preparatory intensive Georgian language course. According to the beneficial policy provided by the legislation, passing one exam is only applied to the representatives of ethnic minorities, other students took exams in four subjects to be admitted to higher education institutions in 2010. After completing the one-year preparatory language course and collecting 60 credits students continue their studies according to the selected educational programmes.

- Based on the results of general skills exams in Azeri and Armenian languages at the Unified National Exams 2010, the following number of students received access to accredited higher educational institutions of Georgia:
 - Based on the results of the general skills exam in Azeri language – 178 students;
 - Based on the results of the general skills exam in Armenian language – 123 students.

Based on the results of only general skills exams in Azeri and Armenian languages, the following number of students were financed with state study grant for 2010:

- Based on the results of the general skills exam in Azeri language – 101 students;
 - Based on the results of the general skills exam in Armenian language – 112 students.

- In 2010 preparatory reference book for Unified National Exams was published in the languages of ethnic minorities, namely:
 - a) selective subjects in Russian language;
 - b) general skills in Russian, Azeri and Armenian languages.

- On July 7-8 general Master's exams were conducted in Georgian and Russian languages. A preparatory reference book for Master's exam 2010 was published in Russian.

- On February 24, under the organization of the *Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues*, a meeting with the representatives of the *National Exam Center*²⁹ was planned, prepared and successfully conducted in the Culture House of Marneuli (Kvemo Kartli) for the students of the final year in Azeri and Armenian schools. With the help of the representatives of Kakheti regional administration, students of Azeri public schools of the villages Iormuganlo and Lambalo of the Kakheti region also participated in the meeting. Representatives of the *National Exam Center* presented to the students changes entered in the educational law. Future university students were explained the necessary procedures for submitting applications.

- *In Telavi State University, Kakheti region*, Georgian language learning courses function for non-Georgian students and youth.

Priority Task #2.4. Promotion of Learning State Language

1.Implementation of studying Georgian as second language in schools

²⁹ <http://www.naec.ge/>

Elaboration of *Georgian as Second Language Programme*³⁰ was completed in the frameworks of New National Curriculum. The mentioned document was given for review of non-Georgian language teachers in compactly inhabited regions (on June 30 – in Akhaltsikhe to teachers of all six Samtskhe-Javakheti municipalities, on July 1 – in Rustavi, Kvemo Kartli region).

In 2010-2011 academic year a renewed programme for studying Georgian language was implemented in the 4th class of non-Georgian schools according to the subject programme of the National Curriculum Plan.

Text-book of Georgian as second language was elaborated and published for students of the 4th class of non-Georgian schools and sectors.

With the aim of improving the quality of teaching state language in schools, 340 teachers of Georgian as second language were tested in the level of knowledge of the language. Testing was conducted on the entire territory of Georgia in 7 centers (Akhalsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda, Marneuli, Gardabani, Tsalka and Tbilisi).

Based on the memorandum of understanding, *Center of National Curriculum and Assessment*³¹ together with the *National Center of Teachers' Professional Development*³² started vouchering programme for teachers of Georgian as second language. Corresponding training programmes for practical courses of language studying were prepared for non-Georgian speaking teachers and organizations for conducting trainings were selected, they in their turn received corresponding trainings from local and foreign consultants.

2. Programmes Promoting Studies of the State Language to Youth and Grown-Ups (Center for Grown-Up Studies)³³

Since 2007 *Centers for Grown-Ups Studies – “Language Houses”* are functioning in *Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda* for teachers, public officers, military, medical and social workers, persons engaged in small business and other social groups. Within the frameworks of the *Georgian Language Programme*, in 2009 Georgian Language Centers were established in Kvemo Kartli as well (Dmanisi and Bolnisi).

In 2011 Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia will allocate amounts for financing “Language Houses” in *Ninotsminda and Akhalkalaki*. Alongside with this amounts will be allocated for the Georgian Language Centers in Dmanisi and Bolnisi as well (GEL 30,000 per center which is twice as much compared to the budget 2009).

³⁰ http://www.tpdg.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=47&Itemid=103

³¹ <http://www.ncac.ge/>

³² <http://www.tpdg.ge/>

³³ <http://mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=547&lang=geo>

Presently each center has 6 groups of students (amount allocated for financing of these centers is GEL 120,000).

3. Programme “Highly Qualified Georgian Language Specialists in the Schools of Regions Inhabited by Ethnic Minorities”

Center for Teachers’ Professional Development conducts state programme “*Highly Qualified Georgian Language Specialists in the Schools of Regions Inhabited by Ethnic Minorities*”³⁴, which implies sending qualified teachers of Georgian language and literature to those non-Georgian schools of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti villages inhabited by ethnic minorities, where the issue of knowing and studying Georgian languages is especially acute: *approximately 30% of Georgian language and literature teachers do not speak communication Georgian themselves.*

In 2009-2010 up to 800 persons participated in the open competition conducted by the Ministry, only 64 out of them successfully passed the test and interview. Besides the hourly payment, the newly selected teacher and trainers receive a salary of GEL 1,000 from the state programme (three times more than average teacher’s salary). They take obligatory trainings in the following subjects: “Methods of Teaching Georgian as the Second Language”, “Ethnic and Religious Tolerance” and speed-course in Azeri or Armenian language, and only after this are delegated to Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti villages inhabited by ethnic minorities. Thus, the newly selected teachers and trainers are required to know the local language at least on the elementary level. Teachers participating in the programme, alongside with teaching Georgian language and literature in schools, conduct training for teachers, organize various events the aim of which is to increase motivation for learning Georgian in the community and increase inclusion in the state programme. According to the quarterly report of the teachers, in 2010 up to 6,000 students were engaged in the programme and trainings were conducted to 500 local teachers.

In order to effectively conduct teaching process, *Center for Teachers’ Professional Development* handed over to schools participating in the project the necessary inventory, audio and video devices, visual aids and stationary.

In 2010 a “*Summer School*” project was planned and accomplished in all schools participating in the programme. Teachers comprised student groups in advance and in July continued learning Georgian in a free mode (by way of games, excursions, events). For 2011-2014 it is planned to increase the scale of the summer schools and include more students and teachers in camping projects. The mentioned programme is conducted in the following municipalities: Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda, Tsalka, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Gardabani, Marneuli, Sagarejo and its budget in 2010 equaled to GEL 773,000.

³⁴ http://www.tpdg.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=47&Itemid=103

In 2010-2014 it is planned to increase the number of professional teachers of Georgian language and literature in regions inhabited by ethnic minorities and to engage more villages in this programme.

4. *Center of Teachers' Professional Development and non-governmental organization "Center for Civil Integration and Inter-National Relations"* translated and distributed in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti 1,290 copies of *publication "Theories of Teaching and Development" and "Teaching and Assessment"*. The mentioned publications³⁵ are auxiliary guides for teachers and aim at helping them to get better prepared for the certification exams and improve the pedagogical practice.

5. On the basis of the *Chair for Georgian Language and Literature of the Telavi State University, Kakheti region*, several special trainings were conducted for public school teachers of Telavi and other municipalities of Kakheti in issues of methods of Georgian language teaching.

Priority Task #2.5. Promotion of Public Discussions in the Sphere of Education and Civil Integration

Research Center for Caucasian Problems has been opened at the *Telavi State University*³⁶, *Kakheti region*. Its staff works on problems of national and ethnic minorities in Kakheti region (such as Kists, Udins, Azeris, Russians, Ossetians, Avars, Romas, etc). Staff of the regional administration, municipality gamgeobas, regional human rights activist, non-governmental and other structures actively participate in events conducted by the Center.

³⁵ http://www.tpdg.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=63

³⁶ <http://tesau.edu.ge/>

National Concept Direction #3. Media and Information Accessibility

Priority Task #3.1. Promotion of Accessibility of National Broadcast in Regions Inhabited by National Minorities

Besides national channels (I and II), *Public Broadcaster*³⁷ spreads programmes prepared in minority languages via regional TV companies.

“Moambe” (News) in Abkhazian language is aired on “*Channel Two*”³⁸ daily at 23:00, and 07:00; it is repeated on “*Channel One*”³⁹. It is also aired daily by “*Odishi*” TV company (*Zugdidi*). Signal is only spread on the Gali district of Abkhazia. In other regions “Moambe” in Abkhazian language is available to those who have satellite antennae.

“Moambe” in Ossetian language is aired on “*Channel Two*” daily at 23:00 and 07:00; it is repeated on “*Channel One*”. It is also aired daily by “*Trialeti*” TV company (*Gori*). Signal is spread in the entire Tskhinvali region except Akhagori district.

“Moambe” in Armenian language is aired on “*Channel Two*” daily at 23:00 and 07:00; it is repeated on “*Channel One*”. It is also aired daily by “*ATV 12*” TV company (*Akhalkalaki*). “*Parvana*” TV company (*Ninotsminda*) provides time to “*National Moambe*” of its own accord.

“Moambe” in Azeri language is aired on “*Channel Two*” daily at 23:00 and 07:00; it is repeated on “*Channel One*”. It is also aired daily by “*Marneuli*” TV company (*Marneuli*).

Priority Task #3.2. Promotion of Accessibility of Programmes in National Minority Languages

Sociological researches conducted by the Public Broadcaster in the regions inhabited by national and ethnic minorities confirmed that broadcasting in their mother tongue once a week in the daytime did not arouse interest among the audience. The reasons named included inconvenient time (14:30) and non-intensive periodicity (once a week). Taking into consideration the fact that the majority of the potential audience for Abkhazian, Ossetian, Azeri and Armenian language has no time for watching the programme in the daytime, the given TV product did not achieve desired effect. In connection with this, since March 1, 2010 *Public Broadcaster* conducted reform with the aim of increasing on air volume and effectiveness. Airing news programmes in various languages started through those regional TV companies that cover parts of the

³⁷ <http://www.gpb.ge/Default.aspx?LangID=1>

³⁸ <http://www.2tv.ge/>

³⁹ <http://www.1tv.ge/Default.aspx?LangID=1>

countries compactly inhabited by citizens of Abkhaz, Ossetian, Azeri and Armenian nationality.

Editorial staff prepares a full informational report on daily news (duration – 40 minutes) in four languages – Armenian, Azeri, Abkhaz and Ossetian. This informational block is daily provided to regional TV channels in Akhalkalaki, Marneuli, Gori and Zugdidi. At the same time partner TV channels in regions have the right to repeat the programme in the morning and evening hours. Besides, regional TV channels also have the possibility to offer items prepared by local editorial staff for broadcasting. Broadcasting of “*National Moambe*” which started on March 1, 2010 arouse great interest among the audience. Today editorial staff for national minorities have the possibility to prepare themselves reports on topics of interest. Presently an audio version of “*National Moambe*” is broadcasted on air of the Public Broadcaster radio. Radio programme in Kurd language was added to informational programmes in Abkhaz, Ossetian, Azeri and Armenian languages. Radio broadcast in minority languages also takes place on the air of “*Radio One*”⁴⁰.

On November 18-19, 2010 emergency meeting of *Public Broadcaster national minorities editorial and regional TV companies* took place. During this two-day working meeting alongside with thematic reports, a discussion took place on the following topic: how watchable are local TV programmes, how many viewers regional TV channels have in total and how many representatives of national minorities are among them, what technical basis they possess.

On January 25, 2010 a new *Russian language TV channel “PIK”*⁴¹ started broadcasting via satellite. The main target audience of this channel are Caucasian people who will receive objective news from daily informational programmes. There are modern documentaries, talk-shows and TV journals, interesting talks about history and art already broadcasting on the channel.

Priority Task #3.3. Promotion of Highlight and Participation of National Minorities in Broadcasting Programmes

On February 24 Public Defender and Council of National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender met General Director of the Public Broadcaster. New projects for broadcasting in minority languages were discussed during the meeting.

- Talk-Show “Our Yard”⁴²

Target audience of the *talk-show “Our Yard”* is not limited to ethnic minorities. The programme is shown in Georgian and its aim is to provide information to wider audience about culture, traditions and daily lives of ethnic minorities living in Georgia.

⁴⁰ <http://www.radio1.ge/>

⁴¹ <http://pik.tv/ru>

⁴² <http://www.1tv.ge/Show-Home.aspx?LangID=1&Location=14>

- Tele-Bridge “Tbilisi-Baku”⁴³

Public Broadcaster conducts periodic tele-bridges between Tbilisi and Baku which aim at deepening relations between two countries. Tele-bridge was made by the Public Broadcasters of Georgia and Azerbaijan on April 29. The topic concerned cooperation of two countries in the non-governmental sector. This tele-bridge aroused big interest among audience of both countries. Taking this interest into consideration, the project became systematic. In November and December two more tele-bridges were conducted on the topics “*Neighbours Should Know Each Other Better*” and “*Economical Cooperation of Two Countries*”.

Priority Task #3.4. Promotion of Electronic and Printed Media in National Minority Languages

Under the assistance of the *Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection*⁴⁴ issues of newspapers “*Vrastan*” and “*Gurjistan*” were published. Publication of Armenian and Azeri-language newspapers promotes increase of awareness and integration into the Georgian cultural space for Azeris and Armenians living in Georgia. For the publication of each newspaper the Ministry allocated GEL 15,000 from its budget. Together with this, based on the decree of the *President of Georgia*, with the aim of financing activities of the newspapers “*Vrastan*” and “*Gurjistan*” additional amount of GEL 60,000 was allocated from the *Reserve Fund of the President of Georgia*. The mentioned amount was equally distributed between these two newspapers. Thus, the mentioned Azeri and Armenian-language publications were financed in 2010 by the Ministry for the amount of GEL 45,000 each.

Priority Task #3.5. Promotion of Strengthening of Tolerance and Cultural Pluralism in Media

- *Programme “Our Yard”* is broadcasted every Sunday. The programme was awarded by the Council of National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender as “*the best tolerance programme of 2010*”. Its first broadcasting took place on June 2, 2007. Since then a total of 88 programmes were produced until July 2010. During the 2009 (December) – 2010 (December) TV season 32 programmes went on air. Only for settings GEL 33,120 were spent in 2010 (financed in the frameworks of *USAID/UNAG programme*). Many interesting topics were highlighted in the programme – *Caucasian House, Road Rehabilitation Programme, Photo Art, New Programme of Professional Education*. One programme was dedicated to the activities of *Tskhinvali and Sukhumi Theaters*.

⁴³ <http://www.1tv.ge/Show-Home.aspx?LangID=1&Location=114>

⁴⁴ <http://www.mcs.gov.ge/>

- On the initiative of the *Kurd editorial* of the Public Broadcaster a webpage was made www.kurd.ge, which provides information about traditions, culture and modern lifestyle of the Kurd minority.
- *Council of Tolerance and Civil Integration at the Office of the President of Georgia* and *Georgia UN Association* created and periodically renew a special *electronic database*. Database offers information about history and culture of national minorities living in Georgia.

The total costs of the Public Broadcast for programmes of minorities in 2010 equal to GEL 463,213.

National Concept Direction #4.
Political Integration and Civil Engagement

Priority Task #4.1. Promotion of Equality of Election Rights for Ethnic Minorities

A working group for category of vulnerable electors has been established in the *Central Electoral Commission of Georgia (CEC)*⁴⁵. The group consists of the members of the Commission, administration staff, representatives of local governmental and non-governmental as well as international organizations functioning in Georgia. The mentioned group conducted 15 working meetings in April and May 2010 where special attention was paid to providing thorough information on electoral rights to votes in regions inhabited by national minorities, their inclusion in the election processes, taking into consideration opinions of their representatives. With the aim of maximal assistance to the mentioned category of electors, their awareness raising and full-fledged inclusion in the electoral process, the group planned and conducted the following measures for the local self-government election on May 30, 2010:

- Initial version of the unified list was translated into Armenian and Azeri and made public on 314 polling stations of 9 electoral districts;
- Guiding instructions for the electoral commission members was prepared, translated and published in Russian, Armenian and Azeri languages;
- Election day instructions were prepared, translated and published in Russian, Armenian and Azeri languages, and distributed to all non-Georgian electoral districts;
- Final version of the electors' list was translated into Armenian and Azeri and made public in polling stations;
- Georgian-Armenian and Georgia-Azeri versions of electoral bulleting was prepared and published;
- Up to 100,000 copies of the following material was also prepared, published in Russian, Armenian and Azeri languages and distributed:
 - Voting instructions;
 - Electoral bulletin completion instructions;
 - Posters illustrating voting procedure;
 - Flyers;
 - Booklets “*Voter’s Instructions*”
- Advertisement videos were translated and aired on regional TV channels and radio programmes, in electronic and printed media functioning in regions compactly inhabited by national and ethnic minorities.

On April 13 Public Defender of Georgia and members of the Council of National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender met the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission. During the meeting they discussed the issues of participation of national minorities in the local self-government elections on May 30, 2010, translation

⁴⁵ <http://www.cec.gov.ge/>

and provision of electoral material for national minorities and their engagement in the elections.

Several international and local non-governmental organizations, with the support of the CEC, conducted projects on assistance and informing of non-Georgian voters in Tbilisi and Samtskhe-Javakheti. In particular, *UNDP*⁴⁶ accomplished translation and printing of posters and flyers; *International Fund of Electoral System (IFES)*⁴⁷ accomplished translation and printing of posters and flyers, produced t-shirts with inscriptions in Armenian, Russian and Azeri languages.

M. Melkonyan Tolerance and Integration Charitable Foundation conducted a project in Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda, which implied providing informational support to local non-Georgian speaking population in order to give them detailed information about the preparation for the elections of local self-government bodies and procedures on the election day. Project was completed in 22 major districts and 21 village. Informational videos in Armenian prepared by CEC were broadcasted on local TV channels “ATV-12”, “Javakhk” and “Parvana”.

*Center for Development, Reform and Study of Electoral System*⁴⁸ conducts special project “Promotion of Legal Education of Ethnic Minorities in the Issue of Democratic Elections Essence and Organizational Peculiarities” in Akhalkalaki, Akhaltsikhe and Ninotsminda municipalities. In the frameworks of the project 920 participants undertake the educational course, election resource centers will be established.

On December 2 a meeting took place in CEC with local and international NGOs. Issues of joint work on problems of national minorities were reviewed. The following participated in the meeting: *CEC administration, Center for Development, Reform and Study of Electoral System, NGO “Young Lawyers’ Association”, “International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy”, “New Generation – New Initiative”, “Alpe”, “Multinational Georgia”, “Civil Initiative Foundation”, Public Defender Office, International Foundation of Electoral System (IFES), National Democratic Institution of International Affairs of USA (NDI) and UNDP.*

Under the initiative of CEC chairman, allocation of a certain amount in the form of grants was planned for establishing resource centers in non-Georgian regions (presently in five or six municipalities), with the aim of improving the electoral environment for the non-Georgian population and their active inclusion in the electoral process. These resource centers will be used for conduct of training and various activities.

In 2010 CEC allocated GEL 121,057 for grant projects of local non-governmental organizations, while for translation of guiding instructions for the members of the polling station commission into Azeri – GEL 1,500.

⁴⁶ http://undp.org.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=40&pr_id=58

⁴⁷ <http://www.ifes.org/Search.aspx?search=ifes+in+georgia>

⁴⁸ <http://electionreforms.ge/>

Priority Task #4.2. Improvement of Participation on National Minorities in Decision-Making Process

*Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure*⁴⁹ signed a memorandum of understanding with the *Council of National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender*⁵⁰. According to the memorandum, parties will cooperate in the sphere of promotion of civil integration of national minorities and protection and popularization of national minorities rights and freedoms. Cooperation will be exercised by way of consultations, discussions, information exchange, seminars and conferences.

In May 2010 a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the *Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection* and *Council of National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender*. It aims at promotion of full-fledged civil integration of national minorities residing in Georgia, protection and popularization of national minorities rights and freedoms. It also aims at promotion of full-fledged participation of national minorities in all spheres of social life, protection and preservation of national minority languages, culture, traditions and other important elements of self-identification. According to the bilateral memorandum, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection undertakes to conduct programmes and projects connected with national minorities. Besides, the Ministry will actively cooperate with the Council of National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender and will take into consideration its recommendations.

On April 14 *Deputy State Minister in Reintegration Issues* and staff members met representatives of NGOs active in Samtskhe-Javakheti region. The initiator for the meeting was the Samtskhe-Javakheti regional office of the *Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Relations Study (GFSIS)*⁵¹. The aim of the meeting was presenting results of the work in connection with national minority rights protection completed by the Office of the State Minister during one year together with future plans to NGO sector and public school teachers of the region.

On December 14-16 in Tbilisi under the joint organization of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues and Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (with assistance of CoE/ECMI programme), *conference “Activities of the Local Self-Government Bodies in Regions of Georgia With the Aim of Minority Integration”* was conducted for the newly elected representatives of local self-government bodies as well as leadership of the regional administration. The thematic part of the conference significantly helped the representatives of self-government in relations with the population. Participants of this conference were invited from all those regions where minorities reside compactly. As the result of various thematic presentations during the conference (including by prominent international experts) and

⁴⁹ <http://mrdi.gov.ge/>

⁵⁰ <http://ombudsman.ge/index.php?page=777&lang=0&n=24>

⁵¹ <http://www.gfsis.org/index.php/ge>

visits (to the parliament and administration of the president), they received new knowledge on problems connected with minority integration.

In Kakheti experts of Tolerance Center and Council of National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender were invited to meet representatives of Kist (Vainakh), Ossetian, Avar and Unid minorities. They spoke about history of celebration of the International Tolerance Day (November 16), civil integration and tolerance, monitoring of completion of National Concept on Tolerance and Civil Integration and Action Plan 2010, visited newly constructed or renovated schools, Culture Houses and other buildings in villages inhabited by national minorities (Omalo, Tsitskanaantseri, Chantliskure, Oktomberi).

Priority Task #4.3. Popularization of European Framework Convention on Protection of National Minorities

With the aim of further popularization and awareness raising in the society concerning the “*European Framework Convention on Protection of National Minorities*”⁵² adopted by the Council of Europe on 01.02.1995 and ratified by the Parliament of Georgia on 13.10.2005, Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues prepared a new publication – brochure “*Framework Convention on Protection of National Minorities – in questions and answers*”. The same brochure includes “*National Concept on Tolerance and Civil Integration – in questions, answers and schemes*”. These two publications were prepared and published with the assistance and financing of the *Council of Europe (CoE)* and *European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI)*.

In 2010 several meetings of social council established at the governor’s administration of *Kakheti region* took place. During the meeting issues connected with specificity of *Kakheti region* and completion and recommendations to European Framework Convention on Protection of National Minorities were discussed.

⁵² <http://diversity.ge/files/files/ec-157-geo.pdf>

National Concept Direction #5. **Social and Regional Integration**

Priority Task #5.1. Further Development of Infrastructure in Regions Inhabited by National Minorities

With the aim of promoting social and economical integration in regions inhabited by national minorities, significant projects for infrastructure development have been conducted.

With the support of the *Millennium Challenge Georgia Foundation* (MCG⁵³) *Samtskhe-Javakheti roads rehabilitation project*⁵⁴ was conducted, in particular – 224 km of road was rehabilitated, as well as 600 m of 15 bridges and drainage system along the rehabilitated road. Road construction took place in 2008-2010, it started from the settlement of Teleti (near Tbilisi) and continued via Manglisi to Tsalka, then to Ninotsminda and Akhalkalaki. Finally the road reaches the borders with Armenia and Turkey and connects the three countries. Operational life of the road rehabilitated by the *Millennium Challenge Georgia Foundation* is 20 years. As the result of the project, better conditions were created for trade, tourism and other business development, which will precondition creation of new jobs in the regions. The project will also promote connection of these two regions with the rest of Georgia, which in its turn will speed up social, political and economical integration of the local population. Road construction and rehabilitation works were conducted with full observance of international standards. It must be mentioned that during the construction and rehabilitation process more than 3,000 people of local population were employed based on their qualification and experience.

*Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure*⁵⁵ completed the following works: rehabilitation of bridge on river Potskhvera on the 1st km of the motorway Akhaltsikhe-Ninotsminda-Armenia border; rehabilitation of 140-144 km of motorway Batumi (Angisa) – Akhaltsikhe (Adigeni); rehabilitation of motorway Kveshi-Dzedzvnariani-Tandzia; rehabilitation of 12-16 km of the motorway Koda-Tetritskaro; rehabilitation of bridge over the river Poladauri on the 11th km of the motorway Sioni monastery of Bolnisi – Tsugrugaseni; rehabilitation of bridge at the Turkish border on the motorway Khashuri-Akhaltsikhe-Vale; rehabilitation of motorway Akhaltsikhe-Ninotsminda till Armenian border; rehabilitation of motorway Minadze-Uraveli; rehabilitation of circle road of Bakuriani; rehabilitation of access motorway to Didveli ski complex in Bakuriani; rehabilitation of walking road Minadze-Uraveli; rehabilitation of 44-53 km motorway of Tbilisi-Kojori-Tsalka-Ninotsminda; rehabilitation of 1-12 km motorway of Didi Dmanisi-Dmanisi-Gomareti-Bediani; rehabilitation of 12-24 km motorway of Shulaveri-Red Bridge.

⁵³ <http://mcg.ge/>

⁵⁴ <http://mcg.ge/?l=2&i=1443>

⁵⁵ <http://www.georoad.ge/>

In the frameworks of programme for rehabilitation of roads of state importance⁵⁶ in Samtskhe-Javakheti 9 projects are being conducted from the state budget, with the total cost of GEL 28,869,800. It must also be mentioned that Tsalka-Akhalkalaki road has come into function, twice decreasing the distance to the capital. In the frameworks of the projects conducted according to the Village Assistance Programme⁵⁷ village roads and bridges were renovated. With the help of amounts allocated from the Region Projects Fund⁵⁸ bridges, streets and street lightning were renovated.

In Dmanisi municipality⁵⁹ road rehabilitation works were conducted in Dmanisi, Kamarlo, Karabulakhi, Inpari, Orozmani, Kizilkilisa, Sakire, Irganchay and Amamlo territorial units. A sector of 45 km of the internal motorways has been reconstructed. In the villages of Tnusa and Shindlari access roads to the villages were rehabilitated. Access road to the village of Dalari was graveled. With the aim of securing unhindered traffic on village roads bridges were constructed in the villages of Dmanisi community and Kizilkila territorial unit.

In Gardabani municipality⁶⁰ in village Muganlo rehabilitation of the road is completed, roads to Karajalar and Kapanakhchi are graveled, pit renovation of roads is completed in Kalinino.

In Tsalka municipality⁶¹ with the aim of improvement living conditions for the population internal roads and street lightning were rehabilitated.

In Bolnisi municipality⁶² gameoba renovated access and internal roads in 21 villages, arranged street lightning in 4 villages. The following projects on local water system rehabilitation were conducted: Sartichala (Muganlo), Kolagari-Marneuli main line, Rustaveli street system in Marneuli, internal distribution network in Tetrtskaro.

In Samtskhe-Javakheti within the frameworks of projects conducted according to the Village Assistance Programme potable water systems were renovated. Water pipeline was renovated with the amounts allocated from the Region Projects Fund.

In Bolnisi municipality gameoba conducted rehabilitation works of potable water systems in 32 non-Georgian villages, while in 7 villages irrigation water systems were renovated.

In Dmanisi municipality potable water rehabilitation works were conducted in the following administrative units: Sarkineti, Amamlo, Kamarlo, Karabulakhi and Orozmani territorial bodies and village of Mamilari.

⁵⁶ <http://www.georoad.ge/?que=geo/projects>

⁵⁷ <http://mrdi.gov.ge/?page=rightgv&id=5&lang=1>

⁵⁸ <http://mrdi.gov.ge/?page=rightgvv&id=5&lang=1>

⁵⁹ <http://www.dmanisi.com.ge/>

⁶⁰ <http://kvemokartli.gov.ge/?page=gardabani&lang=1>

⁶¹ <http://kvemokartli.gov.ge/?page=calka&lang=1>

⁶² <http://kvemokartli.gov.ge/?page=bolnisi&lang=1>

In Gardabani municipality in the village of Ambartapashi installation of the potable water pipe has been completed, while in the villages of Birlik and Tazakend potable canal was cleaned. Rehabilitation works of potable water systems are being carried out according to the plan in the villages of Agtaklia and Karatakia.

In Tsalka municipality in the village of Ashkalaki with the aim of improving living conditions of the Armenian population living there, water system was rehabilitated

In Samtskhe-Javakheti in the frameworks of the *School Rehabilitation Programme*⁶³ 30 public schools were rehabilitated during this year by the Ministry of Education and Science, out of them 19 schools in Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities.

In Gardabani municipality in the village of Karajalar construction of school has started, amounts were allocated from the *Heydar Aliev Fund*⁶⁴. The school will be equipped with modern technology and inventory and will have the capacity of 650 students. Pre-school educational institutions, libraries, culture centers and sports schools of the municipality receive permanent financing. Reconstruction of a kindergarten is completed in the village of Jandara.

*In Marneuli municipality*⁶⁵ rehabilitation of the #7 public school is completed; works were conducted with funds allocated from the *Heydar Aliev Fund*. In the village of Akhalolalo of the Marneuli municipality a new public school is opened, fully funded by the government of Japan. Another educational institution opened in Marneuli is Chaglar, where studying is carried out in Georgian and Azeri languages. The school is equipped with modern technology and has the capacity of 200 children.

In Bolnisi municipality major and current repairs were conducted in 14 general public schools.

In Tsalka municipality in the village of Kizil-Kilisa with the aim of improving the conditions of the students Armenian public school was renovated.

In Samtskhe-Javakheti within the frameworks of the projects conducted according to the *Village Assistance Programme* several culture houses were renovated.

Gamgeobas of Kakheti region renovated village clubs and culture houses.

In Marneuli municipality in the village of Chanakhchi rehabilitation works of the culture house were conducted.

In Bolnisi municipality 2 village clubs were renovated.

⁶³ <http://www.esida.ge/>

⁶⁴ http://www.heydar-aliyev-foundation.org/index_e.html

⁶⁵ <http://kvemokartli.gov.ge/?page=marneuli&lang=1>

In Marneuli municipality in the villages of Norgiuli, Aziakent, Dashtapashi and Molaogli rehabilitation of stadiums were completed.

In Dmanisi municipality football stadiums were constructed in Dmanisi community and villages of the Gantiadi territorial unit.

In Tsalka municipality in the village of Zhinisi, Trialeti and Avranlo renovation works for open sports grounds and gyms were conducted.

In Gardabani municipality in the villages of Kesalo and Nazarlo street lightning was reconstructed, in the village of Karajalari administrative building was constructed.

In Dmanisi municipality street lightning was arranged in the villages of Amamlo territorial unit. Ritual halls were arranged in the villages of the Kamarlo, Amamlo, Karabulakhi, Guguti and Ipnari territorial bodies. Also, in the villages of Ipnari, Dmanisis community, Orozmani, Guguti, Karabulakhi territorial units cemeteries were fenced and sheds arranged. As the result of completion of these works ritual services provided to the population were improved, cemeteries are protected. Infrastructure of the abovementioned villages has improved. As the result of these projects infectious deceases have significantly decreased, sanitary and hygienic as well as living conditions of the population have improved. A total of 208 persons were employed in 2010 in Dmanisi municipality under the Action Plan.

In Samtskhe-Javakheti amount of investments made with the aim of rehabilitating infrastructural objects with the governmental and local budgets equals to GEL 108,829,910. The following projects have been conducted in 2010:

- *Village Assistance Programme*⁶⁶: under the Village Assistance Programme 117 Armenian villages received GEL 1,578,660 which comprises 54% of the amounts allocated in the frameworks of the programme. The population selected necessary priorities within the limits of this amount themselves and actively participated in their fulfillment. The mentioned programme is utterly successful as together with infrastructure rehabilitation it promotes community mobilization and ownership increase in resolving social needs, as well as provides employment for local population. In the frameworks of the programme 228 projects have been conducted in communities inhabited by ethnic minorities. Renovated objects include sewage systems, culture houses, potable water systems, etc.
- *Projects financed by Region Projects Fund*⁶⁷: in the frameworks of the mentioned programme 11 major projects were conducted in settlements inhabited by ethnic minorities, with total costs of GEL 2,040,120, which comprises 42% of the amounts allocated from the mentioned fund. Rehabilitated objects include blocks of apartments, sewage systems, street

⁶⁶ <http://mrdi.gov.ge/?page=rightgvv&id=5&lang=1>

⁶⁷ <http://mrdi.gov.ge/?page=rightgvv&id=5&lang=1>

lightning, etc. The majority of projects are completed. Construction of a swimming pool in Akhalkalaki is still in progress and will be carried out in 2011.

- *Projects funded by Municipality Development Fund*⁶⁸: 3 rehabilitation projects are being carried out in Ninotsminda, with total amount of GEL 1,822,000, while in Akhalkalaki 7 projects are in progress with total amount of GEL 5,253,148.

Under the coordination of the *Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure* in 2009-2010 the following amounts from the budget were spent on infrastructural projects in municipalities inhabited by ethnic minorities:

	2009	2010
Akhmeta	GEL 253 800	GEL 380 900
Gurjaani	GEL 4 889	GEL 13 181
Dedoplistskaro	GEL 8 486	GEL 17 055
Lagodekhi	GEL 297 467	GEL 237 579
Sagarejo	GEL 144 200	GEL 365 600
Signage	GEL 32 045	GEL 46 130
Telavi	GEL 50 394	GEL 140 479
Kvareli	GEL 51 010	GEL 144 566
Tsalka	GEL 381 438	GEL 258 667
Bolnisi	GEL 657 591	GEL 760 676
Dmanisi	GEL 2 196 678	GEL 2 991 475
Gardabani	GEL 443 191	GEL 1 225 327
Marneuli	GEL 4 589 218.72	GEL 4 438 666.34
Akhalkalaki	GEL 6 742 867	GEL 7 701 631
Ninotsminda	GEL 3 318 362	GEL 3 986 868
Total:	GEL 19 171 636.72	GEL 22 708 800.34

Priority Task #5.2. Promotion of Professional Re-Training and Employment of National Minorities

Zurab Zhvania School of State Administration

On June 12, 2010 the President of Georgia opened the newly renovated Zurab Zhvania School of State Administration⁶⁹. The aim of the school is to provide corresponding short-term and long-term professional and educational programmes to public officers

⁶⁸ <http://mdf.ge/georgian/>

⁶⁹ <http://mes.gov.ge/content.php?t=srch&search=სახელმწიფო ადმინისტრირების სკოლა&id=951&lang=geo>

employed in governmental and self-governmental bodies on both central and regional level.

Besides improving the school infrastructure, in 2010 Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia provided schedule of various short and long-term educational programmes. Before the schedule was drafted, needs assessment and research were conducted with the assistance of ECMI and OSCE Higher Commissioner on National Minority Issues.

As the result of activities conducted in 2010, *Zurab Zhvania School of State Administration* will offer its students the following short and long-term educational and professional development programmes:

List of short-term courses:

1. *IT Management*
2. *Financial Management*
3. *Project Management and Monitoring*
4. *Human Resources Management*
5. *Basics of Law and Administration*
6. *Basics of Management*

List of long-term courses:

1. *Georgian language course (3 months per year, by stages)*
2. *English language course (3 months per year, by stages)*

In 2010 the professional development course (Georgian language course, English language course, IT Management course) was undertaken by 15 Azeri and 15 Armenian students who are currently employed in governmental and self-government bodies of various districts (Gardabani, Bolnisi, Marneuli, Rustavi, Tetrtskaro, Akhalkalaki, Akhaltsikhe, Ninotsminda).

Professional Re-Training and Employment of National Minorities

- Since 2009 until present the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, based on the strategic document of *Professional Education Reform*⁷⁰, conducts state programmes and designs various additional activities in professional development for various groups of population, including ethnic minorities.
- The number of students representing ethnic minorities continues to grow in *professional colleges*⁷¹. At present *Kachreti Professional College*⁷² provides education and hostel accommodation to 42 representatives of ethnic minorities (Chechen, Ingush, Azeri). *Akhalkalaki Higher Educational Institution* –

⁷⁰ <http://mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=213&lang=geo>

⁷¹ <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=145&lang=geo>

⁷² <http://www.kachreti.vet.ge/>

College gives education to 32 students, while *Akhaltzikhe Center of Professional Education*⁷³ hosts 48 representatives of ethnic minorities (Armenian, Greek, Ukrainian, Russian, Azeri, German). Ethnic minorities are represented in big numbers in #8 Tbilisi Professional College⁷⁴.

- Since 2008 Police Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs conducts Georgian language course for current and future policemen represented by ethnic minorities, while since 2007 there are special courses on investigation issues.
- In January 2010 staff of the *Department of National/Ethnic Minorities of the Office of State Minister for Reintegration Issues* elaborated a questionnaire consisting of 100 questions for the population of Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti. The questionnaire was elaborated for young people from 18 to 25 living in villages who could not find employment after graduating from public school. Questionnaires, translated into Armenian and Azeri languages, were distributed in the villages of the region. The aim of conducting the research was to reveal factors hindering employment of the youth. According to the thematic necessities, under the organization of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues and in the frameworks of the Action Plan 2011, special trainings and seminars will be conducted to these target groups.

In Samtskhe-Javakheti region representatives of ethnic minorities receive professional education in *Akhaltzikhe Center for Professional Education*⁷⁵.

In Dmanisi municipality in the frameworks of the programme conducted with the aim of teaching ethnic minorities office computer programmes, *AAIP Educational Center* with the partnership of Dmanisi Educational Resource Center provided 35 certificates to students. Programme is carried on further and new groups have already been staffed.

Agrobusiness Development Project:

*Agrobusiness Development Project*⁷⁶, with the support of *Millennium Challenge Georgia Foundation (MCG)* was conducted in various regions of Georgia, including those compactly inhabited by minorities.

With the total budget of USD 20,200,000, the project implies transfer from small farms to commercial successful agrobusiness by way of grant investments, technical assistance and provision of market information. In the frameworks of the project grants were provided on the co-funding principle on the basis of competition for development

⁷³ <http://www.akhalcikhe.vet.ge/>

⁷⁴ <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=145&lang=geo>

⁷⁵ <http://www.akhalcikhe.vet.ge/>

⁷⁶ <http://mcg.ge/?l=2&i=273>

of small processing enterprises, farmer service centers, continuous production chain and primary production in all regions.

As of December 2010 a total number of 283 grant projects have been financed in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Mtskheta-Mtianeti, with the total budget of USD 16 million. On the basis of co-funding the same amount has been attracted, doubling the investment into the agriculture of Georgia within the frameworks of this project and bringing it to USD 32 million. As the result of conducting this project up to 3,000 persons were employed in the villages, while indirect benefit was received by more than 100,000 persons. Products produced in the regions within the frameworks of the Agrobusiness Development Project are sold in chain of Tbilisi supermarkets. A certain share goes on export to Ukraine, USA, several European Union countries.

National Concept Direction #6. **Culture and Preservation of Self-Identification**

Important input in the protection and development of culture of Georgian citizens of various nationality and religion is performed by the state, by way of support of state organizations on subsidy or inclusion of national minorities in various cultural events conducted in the country.

It must be mentioned as an important event that *under the initiative of the President of Georgia*⁷⁷ in 2010 the Muslim holiday of *Novruz Bayram* was announced as state holiday.

In 2010 *Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection* conducted promotion of national minority culture in *two general directions: 1) assistance to state organizations subject to the Ministry and 2) in the frameworks of the “Programme for Promotion of National Minority Culture in Georgia”*. This programme gives the possibility to promote interesting projects received from NGO sector and initiative groups. Thus the Ministry tries to assist national minority organization in development and support of free initiatives.

Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection provides annual assistance to legal entities of public law of national minorities working in the sphere of culture and included in its system. In 2010 *Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection* conducted financial provision of the “*Programme for Promotion of National Minority Culture*” within the limits of assignments provided to this programme according to the Law of Georgia “On State Budget of Georgia for 2010”.

In 2010 the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection conducted the following projects within the frameworks of the programme for promotion of free projects on national minority culture:

- In May 2010 an exhibition of 22 Armenian artists residing in Tbilisi was organized in gallery “Muse”, an album “ART-bridge” was published and a conference was conducted on the mentioned issue.
- In April 2010 Dagestani cinema director Ali Avarski who is a Georgian citizen completed works on the final part of the documentary trilogy “Museum in Open Air”. The film is dedicated to the tolerance and friendship between Georgians and Dagestanis.
- In the first part of May 2010 Days of Armenian Culture were conducted in Tbilisi. Guests from Armenia were invited to the Petro Adamyan State Drama Theater, Georgian citizen Svetlana Eritsyan received Order of Honour.
- In the village of Arishperon an evening dedicated to Kosta Khetagurov was arranged.
- Collection of poems by Lyudmila Gorbachova was published.

⁷⁷ http://www.president.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=226&info_id=4873

- In November 2010 an exhibition of members of the Association of Polish Women “Friendship” Yevgeniya Odinets and Yelena Mlokosevich was arranged.

Priority Task #6.1. Promotion of Civil Awareness

On April 25 *Youth Center of the Council of National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender* conducted a conference “*Conditions on Human Rights in Georgia*”. Students presented their works on freedom of speech and expression, protection of rights of ethnic and religious minorities as well as people with limited capability, and situation in the penitentiary system. Organizations working in the sphere of human rights participated in the conference as well as students of various universities of Georgia. The conference was conducted with the assistance of *UNDP* and *European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI)*.

On December 11 a quiz game “*Ethnic Groups and Religions in Georgia*” organized by the *Tolerance Center at the Office of the Public Defender* took place. Six groups from six schools of Tbilisi and regions participated in the quiz. The aim of the quiz was to popularize publications “*Ethnic Groups in Georgia*” and “*Religions in Georgia*”, raising awareness on religious and ethnic diversity of Georgia among the senior students and promoting tolerant environment.

Priority Task #6.2. Protection of the Cultural Self-Identification on National Minorities

In 2010 Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection allocated GEL 79,200 with the aim of supporting the activities of the *legal entity of public law – David Baazov History and Ethnography Museum of Georgian Jews*. Museum published the sixth volume of the scientific work, *collection of international scientific conference “Archeology, Ethnology, Folklore Studies of Caucasus”*. Exhibition of the museums’ collection was arranged in “*Karvasla*”. Two conferences were conducted during the year.

Legal entity of public law – Petro Adamyan Tbilisi State Armenian Drama Theater received GEL 130,000 from the Ministry in 2010. Theater staged 4 new productions, 24 tour charity shows. In August theater had 10 shows in Armenia.

With the aim of supporting *legal entity of public law – Mirza Patali-Akhundov Azernaijani Culture Museum*, the Ministry allocated GEL 29,400 from the 2010 budget. In 2010 two documentaries were shown in the museum (about the tragedy of January 20 and “*Khojala*” tragedy, both taking place in Azerbaijan in the 90ies of the 20th century). On March 18 a meeting concerning Bayram took place. On April 25 a jubilee event dedicated to Nariman Narimanov was conducted, while on May 26-28 an evening dedicated to the Independence Day of Georgia and Azerbaijan was arranged.

With the aim of supporting *legal entity of public law – Heydar Aliev Azerbaijani Theater*, in 2010 the Ministry allocated GEL 130,000. There were 3 new productions and 25 plays (8 in the city, 17 on charity tour in Marneuli and Gardabani) staged. By the end of the year a new production of “New Year Fairy Tale” is planned in the Shota Rustaveli Theater. The same play will be shown in Gardabani, Dmanisi, Marneuli and Kartli.

Legal entity of public law – Alexander Griboyedov Russian Drama Theater staged 2 new productions, 59 shows 3 tour shows in 2010. A total number of 6,100 viewers were present at the mentioned shows. With the aim of supporting this theater the Ministry allocated GEL 370,000.

Elaboration and Conduct of Programmes and Projects Aimed at Civil Integration

- *In Kakheti region*, on November 19-21 in Telavi a folklore festival was conducted where representatives of national minorities residing in Kakheti also took part, namely amateur groups and individual performers.
- *In Kvemo Kartli region*, with the aim of preserving culture and self-identification of the population, an art evening of a famous Armenian children’s poet Kazaro Agayan was conducted in the village of Bolnisi.
- *In Kvemo Kartli region*, with the aim of developing Russian folk art gameoba of the *Dmanisi municipality* helped *Russian folk choir* to participate in the meeting “*Friendship of Nations*” organized by the *Parliament of Georgia*, where it presented Russian (dukhobor) national clothes and cuisine.

Priority Task #6.3. Protection of Cultural Heritage of National Minorities

According to the *Law of Georgia “On Cultural Heritage”*, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection conducts inventory of immovable monuments and objects of cultural heritage located on the territory of Georgia, with the aim of their protection and taking care. In 2007 a *three-year-long project “Inventory of Ottoman Monuments”* started. As the result of the first stage of the project material kept in the museums and archives of Georgia was studied onsite, as well as part of Ottoman monuments on the territory of historical Samtskhe and Adjara and several dozens of object of Ottoman architecture. Presently the following have been registered:

- Up to 50 Gregorian churches, including: in Tbilisi, Batumi, Kakheti, Bolnisi, Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda districts;
- 10 mosques, including: in Tbilisi, Batumi, Adigeni, Khelvachauri, Chokhatauri, Kobuleti, Kedi, Khulo districts;
- 5 synagogues, including: in Tbilisi, Sukhumi, Tsageri, Oni districts; besides, rehabilitation works were conducted in Oni.

In Pankisi gorge, with the efforts of the local authorities, functioning of such cultural and educational objects as village libraries and clubs has been re-established in villages inhabited by Kists, several groups of amateur art have been established.

Priority Task #6.4. Support of Tolerance, Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue and Connections

Project “Intercultural Dialogue”

In 2010 under the auspices of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues and assistance of donor programmes (USAID/UNAG and CoE/ECMI), this new initiative is being carried out, where NGOs working in various fields of culture, leaders of theaters and literature unions as well as writers and translators who represent national/ethnic minorities living in Georgia, take active part. The aim of the project was to find young poets and writers living in Georgia and future arrangement of multi-language creative meetings.

Many other initiatives were conducted in 2010:

- *Music festival “Under One Sky”;*
- *Evening dedicated to the memory of the first Kist enlightener, spiritual figure, theologian, writer and political journalist Mate Albutashvili (1863-1953) was conducted in the village of Jokola of Pankisi gorge;*
- *Presentation of multi-language literature clubs and multi-language literature collections;*
- *Conference and seminar “Dialogue Between Religions”.*

Priority Task #6.5. Promotion of Participation of National Minorities in the Cultural Life of Georgia

The following measures were conducted in 2010:

- Mass folk and religious holidays in Kakheti – *St. Kakutsa Day, St. Iliia Day, St. Erekle Day, Gurjaani Day, etc.*
- Events dedicated to the *Rustavi Town Day* in Rustavi.

Various multiethnic folk bands living in Georgia participated in these folk holidays.

Priority Task #6.6. Awareness Raising Among Population Concerning Culture, History, Language and Religion of National Minorities and Their Presentation As Cultural Value of the Country

The following measures were conducted in 2010:

- Evening and photo exhibition in Marneuli Culture Center dedicated to the tragedy taking place on January 20, 1989 in Azerbaijan.

- Taking into consideration importance of Pankisi gorge, a scientific conference was conducted about how keeping peace and stability in the border line of Georgia.
- A historical-ethnographic museum was opened in Pankisi gorge which is an important event in the cultural life of the population of Pankisi gorge.
- Systematic support of Kist folk band is accomplished in Akhmeta municipality.
- In Gardabani and Marneuli municipalities events dedicated to Azeri holiday *Novruz Bayram* and Assirian holiday *Khabini* were conducted.

Priority Task #7.1. Promotion, Coordination, Monitoring, Correction and Reporting on Process for National Concept and Action Plan 2010 Elaboration and Further Accomplishment

In 2010 meetings of the *State Inter-Agency Commission created with the aim of fulfilling the National Concept on Tolerance and Civil Integration* were conducted systematically. The following topics were generally discussed during these meetings:

- In the frameworks of general public review of the new project of Constitution, members of the *State Constitutional Commission* met members of the State Inter-Agency Commission and representatives of the Council of National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender and presented the draft of amendments to be included in the Constitution.
- Methodological approaches and principles connected with preparation of a fully renewed and detailed version of Action Plan as well as forms and procedures of inter-institutional coordination.
- Commission meetings were attended by invited representatives of various ministries who do not participate in the measures identified under the five-year Action Plan. However coordination and information exchange concerning state policy and current processes towards national minorities with these ministries is very important. The following bodies presented information about events conducted in their institutions, existing practices, future plans: Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Prosecutor General, Ministry of International Affairs. Among the invited bodies were the representatives of the government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Supreme Council and Mayor's Office of Batumi who provided information concerning events conducted towards minorities in Adjara, initiated projects, current environment, practices, problems and future plans.
- Emergency meeting of the members of the Commission and representatives of 10 organizations of national/ethnic minorities – members of the “Friendship House” in Batumi and the so-called “Abkhazian Diaspora”.
- Commission members systematically present reports and thematic presentations concerning completion of the Action Plan 2010 by the institutions.
- Staff of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues and members of the State Inter-Agency Commission met with the representatives of the NGOs – members of the Council for National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender several times. The aim of the meetings was not only current discussions but also analysis of the annual results on Action Plan, review of recommendations provided by civil society activists concerning Action Plan 2011.

In 2010 the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues prepared and widely disseminated four new publications (with the assistance of USAID/UNAG and CoE/ECMI programmes):

- ✓ “Norms Regulating National Minorities Rights in International Law and Georgian National Legislation”;
- ✓ “Georgian Legislation Concerning National Minorities – in Georgia, Azeri, Armenian and Russian Languages”;
- ✓ “Methodic Instructions and Recommendations on Action Plan Preparation, Accomplishment and Reporting – Methodological and Practical Manual”;
- ✓ Brochure “Framework Convention on Protection of National Minorities – in Questions and Answers”; brochure “National Concept on Tolerance and Civil Integration – in Questions, Answers and Schemes”.

Under the coordination of the *Tolerance Center at the Office of the Public Defender*⁷⁸, *Council of National Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender*⁷⁹, in connection with completion of National Concept on Tolerance and Civil Integration and Action Plan, conducted various events during 2010. Two directions of their work must be mentioned:

- Council of National Minorities signed memorandums of cooperation with the ministries of Justice, Internal Affairs, Regional Development and Infrastructure, Culture and Monument Protection. Such meetings give the members of the Council of National Minorities the possibility to engage more actively in review of topics interesting for them, in discussion of events taking place in the country and decision-making process.
- Council of National Minorities conducted monitoring of completion of National Concept on Tolerance and Civil Integration and Action Plan. Monitoring included Tbilisi, Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti and Samtskhe-Javakheti. During the monitoring Council working group held 66 meetings interviewing about 300 people. On June 27-28, 2010 in Batumi *Council for Tolerance and Civil Integration at the Office of the President of Georgia had an enlarged session* where results of initial monitoring were presented. With the aim of fully expressing opinions and problems of the national minorities in the Concept and Action Plan, the Council elaborated recommendations which were presented in the monitoring report.

In 2010 a new webpage was created – “National/Ethnic Minorities” http://www.smr.gov.ge/ge/ethnic_minorities. This webpage has 6 sections: About Us, Concept and Action Plan, Legislation, Cooperation, Calendar, Demographic Statistics. Each sub-section will also have menus. Together with other important information, this website presents more or less permanent documentation on the mission of the Office of the State Minister, regional representatives, staff, contact details, extracts from national legislation and international normative tools, working plans, reports, projects, cooperation, population statistics.

⁷⁸ <http://ombudsman.ge/index.php?page=777&lang=0&n=22>

⁷⁹ <http://ombudsman.ge/index.php?page=777&lang=0&n=24>