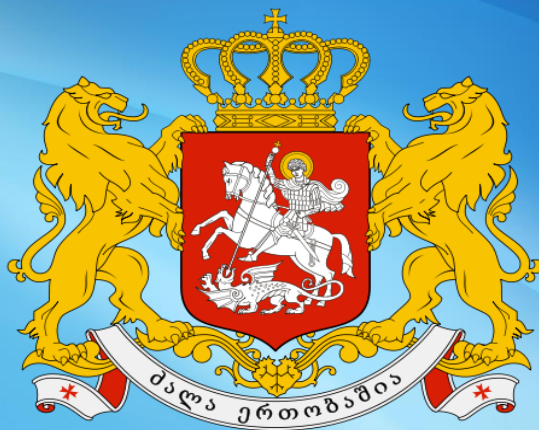


OFFICE OF THE STATE MINISTER FOR RECONCILIATION AND CIVIC
EQUALITY OF GEORGIA

STATE INTER-AGENCY COMMISSION



Report on the Implementation of 2017 Action Plan of the State
Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration

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Introduction

Under the State Interagency Commission, established in order to ensure the effective implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and Action Plan for 2015-2020,¹ various projects/programs and events have been carried out in the reporting period, seeking to enhance/improve the engagement of ethnic minorities in every sphere of public life, to promote their culture, foster tolerant environment, and encourage civic integration.

Under the State Interagency Commission, enhanced-format conventions, retreats, and a meeting of the thematic group established to improve knowledge of the state language and ensure access to learning native languages, with relevant proposals and recommendations developed.

In cooperation with relevant agencies represented in the Commission, 2016 Implementation Report and 2017 Action Plan were developed. These documents were submitted to the Government, the Council of Ethnic Minorities under the Public Defender, and the civil sector.

Consequently, the implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration continued throughout 2017, with concrete activities planned and carried out aiming to reach the priority objectives defined in the strategy:

- ❖ Equal and full participation in public and political life
- ❖ Ensuring equal social and economic conditions and opportunities
- ❖ Ensuring access to quality education and improving knowledge of the state language
- ❖ Preserving the cultures of ethnic minorities and providing tolerant environment.

The State Interagency Commission is composed of the following entities:

- The Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality of Georgia
- The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia
- The National Center for Teacher Professional Development LEPL
- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration LEPL
- The Ministry of Culture and Sports of Georgia
- The Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
- The Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia
- The Ministry of Justice of Georgia

¹ Approved through the August 17, 2015 Decree #1740 of the Government of Georgia.

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia
- The Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia
- The Ministry of Corrections and Probation of Georgia
- The Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia
- Davit Aghmashenebeli National Defense Academy of Georgia
- The National Parliamentary Library of Georgia
- The Administration of the State Attorney- Governor of Kvemo Kartli
- The Administration of the State Attorney-Governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti
- The Administration of the State Attorney-Governor of Kakheti
- The Municipal Assembly of Tbilisi (*Sakrebulo*)
- Batumi City Hall
- The Central Election Commission of Georgia
- The Public Broadcaster of Georgia
- The Office of the Public Defender of Georgia.

In 2017, the composition of the State Interagency Commission was renewed, with the addition of the following agencies:

- The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
- LEPL The Georgian National Tourism Administration
- LEPL The Information Center on NATO and the EU
- The National Statistics Office of Georgia
- The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia.

This report reflects 2017 Action Plan activities implemented under the State Interagency Commission.

I. Equal and Full Participation in Public and Political Life

Ensuring the engagement of ethnic minorities in political life is a state policy goal which, in turn, seeks to enhance their representation at both central and local levels.

To fulfil the objectives under above-mentioned strategic goal, different state agencies have implemented various projects and activities. In this context, the work carried out by the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Corrections, and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia, along

with the Central Election Commission of Georgia, and the Offices of the *Attorney*-Governors of the regions populated by ethnic minorities was especially important.

Supporting Small and Vulnerable Ethnic Minorities

Registration of Roma

Protecting the rights of small and vulnerable ethnic minorities and promoting their full-fledged integration, is a top priority of the state civic integration policy. To step up their engagement, a working group for studying the problems of small and vulnerable ethnic groups has been established under the State Interagency Commission in order to develop concrete recommendations and activities.

In 2017, the Ministry of Justice continued the process of registration of Roma, with relevant procedures implemented to regulate issues pertaining to birth registration as well as granting citizenship or IDs. In particular, under the Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness in Georgia project,² identification data were regulated and IDs were issued to three members of Roma community.

2011-2017 Statistics on registration of Roma

Paperwork Category	2011-2017
Issuance of Georgian Citizenship	1
Confirmation of Georgian Citizenship (ID card)	16
Confirmation of Stateless Status	17
Confirmation/Registration of Birth	39
Total	73

² The project is implemented by the nongovernmental organization *Innovations and Reforms Center*, with financial support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and in cooperation with the LEPL Public Service Development Agency at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.

The Administration of the State Attorney- Governor of Kvemo Kartli organized free screening for ethnic Assyrians and Roma.

Activities of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

In the reporting period, special attention was paid to ensuring the engagement of Roma people living in Georgia. Under the Sub-Program for *Promoting Social Inclusion*, various activities were held based on the principles of inclusion, establishing friendly environment for Roma, improving the level of state language literacy, and fostering the engagement of Roma in educational system. Therefore, more than 200 Roma adolescents attend Georgia's public schools.

Under this sub-program, reading and theater clubs were planned, and performances and conference presentations on the culture and unique identity of the Romani people were held. In order to raise their civic awareness and socialization, more than one project was implemented, as a result of which three Roma persons were employed.³ Through informal education, the integration of Roma children in educational system was promoted.

Throughout 2017, the efforts aimed at teaching native languages of smaller ethnic minorities (Ossetian, Chechen, Avar, Udi, and Assyrian) were continued.

Since December 2017 the Baltic States Sunday School (namely Lithuanian) has been operating at **the Tbilisi Municipal Assembly** introducing Lithuanian language classes (15 students).

Gender Mainstreaming

Throughout 2017, the agencies involved in the work of the State Interagency Commission continued implementation of concrete activities and projects seeking to eliminate gender-based inequality, promote respect for women's rights, and support and encourage women's active participation in public life.

Notably, to ratify the Istanbul Convention, the Ministry of Justice, in early 2017, submitted a package of legislative amendments first to the Government of Georgia and later to the Parliament of Georgia. The amendments applied to almost 25 legislative acts.

Along with initiated legislative package, the Ministry of Justice, in early 2017, launched a social campaign titled **#act**. The campaign seeks to inform the public and motivate it to combat violence. To reach the campaign's goals, it became necessary to deliver trainings in legal ways of combatting violence against women

³ "Favorable Environment for Equal Opportunities", "Spending Free Time Meaningfully."

and domestic violence. Consequently, trainings were planned throughout Georgia (67 locations), in every city and village where Public Service Halls (18) or Community Centers (48) operated.⁴

From May 1 to November 15, a specially developed learning module was used to deliver training to 78 groups, with 886 stakeholders attending. Trainings were held at 48 Community Centers (418 participants).

To ensure better access and increase perceptibility, a different format was adopted to deliver training in cities and villages compactly populated by ethnic minorities. The learning module was translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Trainings were delivered to the Azerbaijani-speaking population in Marneuli, Kabali, Iormughanlo, and Sadakhlo, and to Armenian-speaking population in Akhaltsikhe, Baraleti, Kumurdo, and Foka.

In addition, representatives for the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia delivered ToT (Training of Trainers) trainings to young ethnic minority representatives in Ninotzminda, Akhalkalaki, and Akhaltsikhe municipalities. Thematically, the training was focused on gender equality and violence against women.

The Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality of Georgia carried out an awareness raising campaign on issues pertaining to gender equality. Meetings were held with special focus on the rights of ethnic minority women, identifying their needs, and search for ways to solve existing problems.

Under a joint initiative of the Office of the State Minister, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and of the Promoting Integration, Tolerance and Awareness Program of the UN Association of Georgia, and in partnership with the State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking and the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, the Youth for Gender Equality project was implemented. The project's goal was to raise public awareness about the consequences of early marriage and domestic violence. At the initial stage, volunteer peer educators held 103 meetings on domestic violence in 61 villages of Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions. At the second stage, 66 meetings on early marriage were held in 33 villages of the regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities. Meeting were also held with different target groups, such as students, teachers, parents, and community leaders. Notably, the meetings were held in state language, with the use of native languages of ethnic minorities as a supplementary language, when necessary.

Under Reduction of Domestic Violence in Georgia, a project implemented by the **LEP State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking, the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs** prepared brochures (50,000 copies) and calendar (300 copies) in Georgian, Russian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani languages featuring an anti-violence message and the hotline phone number (116 006). These materials were delivered in the regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities in cooperation with the

⁴ In the process of conducting training, four new Community Centers were opened in Zeindari, Kokhnari, Meore Svir, and Bakuriani, where the training schedule was introduced in mid-October.

Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality of Georgia, local municipalities, and the territorial entities of the LEPL Social Service Agency.

The Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, with support of UN Women ensured improvements to the material and technical framework of the hotline (116 006) for protection from violence and consultation. The hotline offers consultations on domestic violence, violence against women, human trafficking, and sexual violence. Besides Georgian, the hotline is available in seven other languages (English, Russian, Turkish, Azerbaijani, Armenian, Arabic, and Persian).

The State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality of Georgia held a meeting with ethnic Azerbaijani, Armenian, and Georgian women teachers of Georgian language in non-Georgian schools of Kvemo Kartli region. The meeting implied discussions on the importance of women's engagement, the specifics of the work of participants, also relevant challenges and achievements.

Non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity - *The Community Initiative for Women's Rights* at the **Tbilisi Municipal Assembly** delivered a gender equality training.

LEPL David Aghmashenebeli National Defense Academy of Georgia promotes the integration of gender equality and women's peace and security, an endeavor implemented with support of UN Women and the Women's Information Center. Classes on the Principles of Gender Equality and the UN Security Council's Resolutions are delivered to the students as part of the curricula of both the bachelor's degree program and the career schools at the National Defense Academy, including representatives of ethnic minorities.

Throughout 2017, evaluation lectures on the principles of gender equality were provided to 84 fourth-year cadets, including representatives of ethnic minorities. In 2016-2017 academic year, a two-hour training on the Principles of Gender Equality and the UN Security Council's Resolutions was delivered.

The Women's Rooms, established under the State Strategy on Civic Equality and Integration and the 2015-2020 Action Plan, continued their active work in **Kvemo Kartli Region**. These municipal services operate in all seven municipalities of the region, with the goal of providing women with interesting and useful information and ensuring access to services as a most important preconditioning for their engagement.

Throughout the region, the Women's Rooms, in the course of the year, hosted 168 meetings on early marriages, domestic violence, gender equality, and others.

- A variety of training courses were delivered on human rights protection issues, small and microbusiness development, communications, leadership, business development, and others, with women representatives of ethnic minorities actively involved.
- As part of the work of the Women's Rooms, free medical examinations and consultations were provided to almost 400 women representatives of ethnic minorities.

- Nineteen women were registered in the “Produce in Georgia” program (ten women in Marneuli, five in Tetritzkaro, and four in Tzalka).

Through the initiative of the Women’s Rooms operating in every municipality of **Samtskhe-Javakheti Region**, and with support from the municipalities, various activities were implemented to step up women’s activism and ensure gender equality. Meetings were held with women farmers, women entrepreneurs, and trainings were delivered on introducing the migrant reintegration program, screening program, domestic violence, trafficking, early marriage, enhancing women’s political activism, and developing leadership skills.

With assistance from the Peace Corps’ representatives, English language classes operate under the Women’s Rooms.

Throughout the year, the Women’s Rooms were actively involved in activities implemented by different organizations working on gender issues: the Association of Women Farmers, Mercy Corps, IOM, the Woman and Development Association, USAID, the Gender Equality Department at the Office of Public Defender, and others.

The Gender Equality Council of the Parliament of Georgia organized a conference in Akhaltsikhe on the topic of Strengthening Equal Opportunities in Georgia, with delegates from different regions.

In 2017, in order to step up the civic engagement of local self-government bodies and rural populations, a memorandum was concluded between the Administration of the State Attorney- Governor, the HEKS-EPER nongovernmental organization, and te Mercy Corps, on the establishment of the Women’s Room municipal service in the municipalities of **Kakheti Region**.

On the initiative of the Kakheti Regional Administration, the Kabali Community Center hosted a training dedicated to gender, diversity: stereotypes, ethnocentrism, and identity. The meeting was held under the Kabali Youth Center’s program. The training was attended by Georgian and Azerbaijani youths (40 participants).

Increased Access to State Administration, Law Enforcement Agencies and Mechanisms for Ethnic Minorities

Enhanced Engagement of Young Ethnic Minority Representatives

In order to put in place prospects of employment for young representatives of ethnic minorities living in Georgia, and ultimately to promote their engagement and civic integration, the Office of the State Minister, in cooperation with the UN Association of Georgia, implemented Studying the Georgian Language Using the

1+4 Program, a pilot internship program. Under the program, young representatives of ethnic minorities participated in a competition subsequently to become involved in the internship process. A commission, established specifically for this purpose, ensured the selection of candidates based on criteria defined in advance. The member agencies of the Interagency Commission, created in order to ensure the effective implementation of the State Strategy on Civic Equality and Integration and the 2015-2020 Action Plan, expressed good will and accepted 65 successful applicants for three-month internship in 20 agencies, including local self-government bodies and legal entities of public law.

Under the initiative of the Office of the State Minister, in December 2017, amendments were adopted to the Decree #410 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the State Program on the Rules and Terms for Internship in Public Institutions (June 18, 2014). In particular, internship procedures were defined for ethnic minority representatives. According to the adopted amendments, ethnic minority students, who have passed the Special Education Program for Studying the Georgian Language, are able to undergo an internship in public institutions and therefore get sufficient experience and develop their professional skills, which will promote their engagement and civic integration.

Five representatives of ethnic minorities (Armenian, Russian, Azerbaijani, Ukrainian, and Assyrian) were able to undergo a three-month internship at **the Tbilisi Municipal (*Sakrebulo*) Assembly**.

In 2017, the Administration of **the State Attorney-Governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti region** and the region's municipalities addressed responded to the applications by ethnic minority representatives in line with legally prescribed procedures. In the reporting period, 425 citizens addressed the Administration of the Government for assistance/consultation, of which 138 were representatives of ethnic minorities. Their appeals involved such issues as land and residence privatization, financial assistance to renovate their homes, neighbor disputes, and others. Permits to allocate lumber were issued to 167 representatives of ethnic minorities.

The One-Stop Principle is adopted in the Regional Administration and Municipalities. If necessary, employees of relevant agencies hold meetings with representatives of ethnic minorities. A working group also operates at the Administration to study issues related to the alienation of state-owned property in Samtskhe-Javakheti and to refer relevant recommendations to the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. The working group reviewed pleas by 212 individuals, including 58 representatives of ethnic minorities, and upheld 45 requests.

Importantly, representatives of ethnic minorities encountered no language-related barriers, with information provided in a familiar language, if necessary. Public servants representing ethnic minorities, involved in the work of local self-government, were given oral explanations, if necessary, in their native languages.

In 2017, the process of elaboration of 2018-2021 Action Plan for the Social and Economic Development Strategy of Samtskhe-Javakheti was developing. An Armenian-speaking interpreter ensured active engagement of the representatives of ethnic minorities in relevant thematic working groups.

Under the State Strategy and the Action Plan for Civic Equality and Integration, on September 6, 2016, the Advisory Council for Ethnic Minority Issues was established **in Kvemo Kartli** region, based on the decree #61 of the Governor. Under the frames of this Council, six meetings with the participation of local self-governments, nongovernmental organizations, media, central government and ethnic minority representatives were held in the region. The issues of provision with drinking and irrigation water, street lighting, preschool institutions and their needs, employment and economic empowerment of rural women, access to state language courses, women's political participation in decision-making, and others were discussed.

In the reporting period, two meetings of the Council were held in **Kakheti region**. The goal of this Council is to improve the civic engagement of ethnic minorities representatives, to participate in discussions on the projects, programs and other local issues. In the reporting period representatives of local and central authorities, together with members of ethnic minority groups discussed the challenges facing civic integration in the region (problems with infrastructure, teaching the state language, social assistance and others) and consider concrete activities planned.

In the reporting period, the Council for Ethnic Minorities at **the Tbilisi Municipality Sakrebulo Assembly** continued its work organizing meetings on different issues and seeking ways to solve them. It developed active cooperation with Tbilisi City Hall, *Sakrebulo* Assembly, and Municipal *Gamgeoba* Executive Bodies.

Under the Program for Supporting the Development of Youth Activities, **the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia**, implemented the Project for Supporting the Growth of Youth Welfare and Development through Empowering Youth Services in Local Self-Governments.⁵ The goal of the project was to expand the youth services of the local self-government youth services at the municipal level in order to foster youth engagement in public life and to develop youth policy documents at the municipal level.

Under the project, local self-government bodies (city halls, *gamgeoba* executive bodies) retrained 75 officials in charge of youth affairs. The activities are continued with pilot groups (21 municipalities) on the introduction/evaluation of job description, professional standards, and training programs for municipal youth coordinators.

Increase Access to Public Services for Ethnic Minority Representatives

⁵ The project was implemented through financial assistance from international organizations World Vision and USAID-run *Zrda* Project.

With direct involvement and facilitation of the Office of the State Minister, information/awareness raising campaign on various issues was continued in the regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities. In particular:

- ❖ In cooperation with the representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, information meetings and discussions were held in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions on Georgia's European integration, including the issue of a visa-free travel, the agricultural opportunities, benefits, and prospects offered by free trade regime with the EU, which stems from the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement. The meetings were attended by representatives of local self-governments, nongovernmental organizations, and media outlets, also farmers and entrepreneurs. At the meetings the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities was under special focus.
- ❖ Within the frames of information campaign on Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic integration, the project Young European Ambassadors was implemented. The project's goal was to ensure access to information about Georgia's integration into NATO and the EU for the population residing in the regions of compact settlement of ethnic minorities in the languages they understand. Within the project, the mobile group of young people, who had completed the special course, facilitated eight information meetings in five villages of Kakheti and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions, with relevant materials were delivered.⁶

Materials on visa-free travel were prepared and disseminated in the languages of ethnic minorities.

All 15 penitentiary facilities of the **Ministry of Corrections and Probation** offer free access to brochures on the rights of defendants/convicts in five languages (Russian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Turkish and English). In the reporting period, posters on home detention and community service were printed in the Azerbaijani, Russian, and Armenian languages.

Along with access to services, **the Ministry of Justice of Georgia** implemented activities aimed at increasing civic engagement of ethnic minorities through the Community Centers established. Throughout 2017, the Community centers' meeting rooms hosted different information, educational, and cultural events, trainings, and seminars, including the issues of ethnic minorities rights, gender equality, early marriages, violence against women and domestic violence, migration, trafficking, European integration and visa-free travel,

⁶ The project was implemented by the Information Center on NATO and the EU LEPL and the NATO Association of Georgia's Promoting Integration, Tolerance and Awareness in Georgia (PITA) program, on the initiative of the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality and financing from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

agriculture and environment protection. In the reporting period, almost 5,300 people participated in 375 meetings.

Throughout the reporting period, the City Hall of the Batumi Municipality facilitated meetings with representatives of the diaspora to provide them with information on social services and municipal programs. In addition, meetings of ethnic minorities with representatives of state institutions were coordinated.

Providing equal electoral conditions for ethnic minority voters

In the recording period, **the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Georgia** kept up its active work and implemented the following:

Informing Ethnic Minority Voter

- ❖ For the 2017 local self-government elections,⁷ the CEC produced a special video, translated into the Armenian and Azerbaijani languages, on services available to ethnic minorities.
- ❖ For the 2017 elections, 14 informative video were produced, including in the Armenian and Azerbaijani languages, and broadcast by regional TV stations.
- ❖ Information about available services and Election Day procedures were published by the Vrastan Armenian-language newspaper and the Gurjistani Azerbaijani-language newspaper.
- ❖ The CEC Call/Information Center offered voters information provided directly by Armenian- and Azerbaijani-speaking operators who supplied stakeholders with relevant information on election-related issues. Four ethnic minority operators were employed.

Informing Ethnic Minority Voters about Election Day Procedures

Information Campaign

To raise voter awareness for the 2017 elections, the *Talking to Voters* project was implemented for the first time.

- ❖ At the initial stage of the project, 347 meetings were held in public areas, and 103 Voter's Day public meetings at 73 district election commissions.
- ❖ "Find Yourself—Find Your Election Precinct" was the second phase of the project implemented during the voting period, as part of which voters were able to use modern technology⁸ to verify their

⁷ The October 21, 2017 elections of *sakrebulo* municipal representative bodies and mayors of self-governing cities/self-governing communities.

⁸ CEC website voters.cec.gov.ge, Android and iOS operating systems, fast pay boxes, such as NOVA and TBC, and tablets.

data with the unified voter list. Informative brochures were also handed out. The services offered by the CEC were used by 667,124 voters.

- ❖ At the third stage of the project, titled *Come to Vote*, information brochures on election procedures were disseminated in the Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Notably, the project covered Georgia's municipal centers and villages, including ethnic minority compact settlements.

In 2017, the Election Administration and the CEC's Learning Center implemented important **educational projects**, namely:

- ❖ **School of Electoral Development:** This project was implemented in 23 municipalities, including 3 municipalities compactly populated by ethnic minorities. The project's goal was to promote elections among young people, enhance civic engagement, develop trainer skills among district election commissions, and to create additional human resources by sharing the expertise accumulated by the Election Administration. Notably, the project was first implemented for the youth in the Pankisi Gorge, Akhmeta, and 453 young people aged 18-24 participated.
- ❖ **Elections and Young Voters:** This project was implemented in 93 public schools of 68 municipalities, including those compactly populated by ethnic minorities. The project's goal was to raise civic awareness and responsibility among youth. The learning course was attended by 1,645 students of the 9th-12th grades.
- ❖ **Election Administrator's Courses:** This project was implemented throughout Georgia, in every municipality, including those compactly populated by ethnic minorities. The project's goal was to raise public awareness about election-related issues and to foster the formation of qualified human resources in the Election Administration. The learning course was attended by 5,247 students aged 18 and above.
- ❖ **Election Law:** This learning course sought to cement knowledge of election legislation among students to develop their practical skills and promote civic awareness. The course was delivered in 10 universities, with 426 students participating, including the students of the Samtskhe-Javakheti State University.

Translation of Election-Related Documentation for Ethnic Minorities

For the 2017 local self-government elections,⁹ the following election-related documents were translated into Armenian- and Azerbaijani-speaking voters:

⁹ For the 2017 local self-government elections, 3,644 polling stations were established by 73 district election commissions, including 345 polling stations in 12 election precinct compactly populated by ethnic minorities, of which 208 election precinct were Georgian-Azerbaijani, 133 Georgian-Armenian, and 4 Georgian-Armenian-Azerbaijani.

- ❖ Election bulletins (in Georgian-Armenian, Georgian-Azerbaijani, and Georgian-Armenian-Azerbaijani), unified voter lists (to be pinned to the wall and desktop), memos for voters: “Procedures reflecting voting process” (in Georgian-Armenian and Georgian-Azerbaijani).
- ❖ Different election-related materials were translated and disseminated in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages.
- ❖ The following decrees by the CEC were translated for the first time into the Armenian and Azerbaijani languages: “Instructions on endorsing majoritarian candidates by voter initiative groups and registrations procedures for *sakrebulo* assembly elections” and “On defining certain election procedures on number assignment to mayor/*sakrebulo* assembly majoritarian candidates endorsed by voter initiative groups for municipal elections.”¹⁰
- ❖ The following documents were translated for Armenian- and Azerbaijani-speaking members of polling station commissions: a manual for electoral commissions at polling stations, memos for electoral commission chairpersons, functions of commission members in charge of regulating voter flows, duties and rights of polling station secretaries on Election Day, and functions of commissions in charge of movable ballot boxes.
- ❖ Election Day Procedures, an educational film (prepared in the Armenian and Azerbaijani languages), was produced for election precinct commission members.

Small Grants for Civic Society Organizations and Ethnic Minority Communities to Conduct Awareness Raising Campaign about the Importance of Elections and to Strengthen Electoral Culture

For the 2017 local self-government elections, the CEC defined particular directions for grant competition financing. One such directions sought to support vulnerable groups, including ethnic minorities, in the process of the 2017 local self-government elections. On the decision of the Grant Competition Commission, the Learning Center financed 8 projects by local NGOs.¹¹ The projects covered all regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities, and the total budget of the projects was 181,568 GEL.

To Train Ethnic Minority Members of the Election Administration for Electoral Procedures

For the 2017 local self-government elections, trainings were delivered throughout Georgia for 47,259 members of the election precinct commissions, including 2,782 representatives of ethnic minorities.¹²

The Armenian- and Azerbaijani-speaking members of election precinct commissions completed an intensive learning course. At the initial stage of training, members of polling station election commission familiarized

¹⁰ August 21, 2017 Decrees ##30/2017 and 31/2017 by the CEC.

¹¹ For additional information on the supported projects, see Attachment 1.

¹² 1,374 Azerbaijanis, 1,368 Armenians, 19 Russians, 12 Avars, 8 Ossetians, and 1 Ukrainian.

themselves with a manual on the election of heads of station election commissions. The second stage was dedicated to training the full compositions of commissions on issues in the frames of election precinct commissions prior to and on Election Day. The third stage involved a role play training session for commission leadership (chairpersons, deputy chairpersons, and secretaries), while during the fourth stage, similar role play sessions were delivered for commission members.

Special attention was given to working with political parties. The Office of the State Minister actively cooperated with NIMD (Netherlands Institution for Multiparty Democracy), a non-governmental organization. With support from the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, and under cooperation with NIMD, meetings and seminars were held with political parties.

Media and Access to Information

Improving Access to Media and Information for Ethnic Minorities

In the reporting period, *the Public Broadcaster* implemented the activities under the 2017 Action Plan.

TV Broadcasting

In the reporting period, news program “*Moambe*” at 6pm and 8 pm on the Public Broadcaster continued to air with simultaneous translation in the Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. This project (Improving Access to Information in the Languages of Ethnic Minorities), a joint initiative of the Association of Regional Broadcasters and the Public Broadcaster, is implemented with the US Embassy. Until July 2017, daily newsprogram in three languages were broadcasted (in Abkhazian at 11 pm, in Ossetian at 11:30 pm, and in Russian at midnight [duration 26 minutes]).

The Ministry of Corrections of Georgia within its technical capacity (15 channels), offers all defendants/convicts in penitentiaries access to interesting TV channels. In addition, the Ministry also provides free accessible satellite broadcasting TV channels.

TV broadcasting in penitentiaries offers **20 channels in foreign languages**: Russian (12 channels), English (2 channels), Turkish (2 channels), Azerbaijani (2 channels) Armenian (1 channel), and Arabic (1 channel).

The Office of the State Minister in cooperation with the Association of Regional Broadcasters, provided information about the digital coverage area of the ATV12 and Parvana local stations to representatives of local

self-governments, NGOs, media outlets, and local youth. Some vulnerable families got set-top boxes free of charge.

Radio Broadcasting

Throughout 2017, the daily radio program “*Chveni Sakartvelo*” (Our Georgia) (duration 40 minutes) has been aired; the program covered a diversity of topics like civic integration, Georgia’s ethnic and religious diversity, the cultures, challenges, and unique characteristics of different ethnicities.

The newsprogram “*Moambe*” translated into the Armenian and Azerbaijani languages were recorded in the studio and broadcasted by Radio 1. Similarly, Radio 2 continued broadcasting a Kurdish-language weekly news/educational/entertainment show.

Ensuring Access to Broadcasting Programs and Electronic/Printed Media in Ethnic Minority Languages

In September 2017, a seven-language (Georgian, Abkhazian, Ossetian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, English, and Russian) web portal (www.1tv.ge) was launched under the aegis of the Public Broadcaster. The web portal enables its users to follow stories and reports in their native languages. An online radio/TV station is planned to be established in the web portal.

Printed Media

During the reporting period the Armenian weekly newspaper “*Vrastan*” (102 series, circulation 3,500) and the Azerbaijani weekly “*Gurjistan*” newspaper (93 series, circulation 2,000) were published with support from the state. The newspapers were disseminated in both Tbilisi and the regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities, also in the institutions of the Ministry of Corrections.

Ensuring Public Awareness about the Rights of Ethnic Minorities

Representatives of the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality organized information meetings in the regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities (Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti). At the meetings, attended by representatives of the local self-government, NGOs, and media of the Regions of Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti, also by students, the civic integration activities implemented in 2016 and those to be carried out in 2017 were discussed.

Raising Awareness about Combating Trafficking

Combating trade of humans (trafficking) is one of the top priorities of the Government of Georgia. One of the crucial components of the State Policy on Combating Trafficking involves preventive measures. Notably, the trainers of the Training Center of Justice LEPL and the Center for Crime Prevention of the Ministry of Justice held 2 information meetings on trafficking-related issues for the representatives of ethnic minorities (20 participants).

Dissemination of Information Materials on Public Services and Ongoing State Programs

To enhance access to public services for ethnic minorities, **the Ministry of Justice of Georgia**, throughout 2017, ensured the dissemination of information materials on public services and ongoing state programs in the regions populated by ethnic minorities. In 2017, information materials on land registration reform and EU visa-free travel were delivered through the Community Centers. Information materials were also prepared in the languages of ethnic minorities and delivered through the Community Centers.

In the reporting period, the Agricultural Cooperatives Development Agency of **the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia** held 8 information meetings under the state program for supporting beekeeping and dairy cooperatives and the state program for rational use of state-owned hayfields and pastures in the mountainous areas. These meetings, held in the municipalities densely populated by ethnic minorities, were attended by local farmers, among them ethnic minorities.

Raising Awareness of Ethnic Minorities about Human Rights and Protection Mechanisms

The Penitentiary and Probation Training Center LEPL continues the mandatory professional training, certification, and periodical retraining of the staff of the Special Penitentiary Service at the Ministry of Corrections and Probation. The Training Center's training courses for new employees and retraining courses for acting staff involve, along with other theoretical and practical issues, providing knowledge about special categories of defendants/convicts and the specifics of working with them, including local and international approaches to ethnic minorities, and introduction to anti-discrimination legislation. During these courses in 2017, 260 employees were trained/retrained.

II. Ensuring Equal Social and Economic Conditions and Opportunities

Social Mobility

In 2017, **the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia**, under the Promoting Health State Program, prepared the following educational materials in the Armenian and Azerbaijani languages:

- ❖ The Component for Encouraging Stronger Tobacco Control (90% in Georgian, 5% in Armenian, and 5% in Azerbaijani)
- ❖ Materials on new tobacco control regulations (9,000 copies in Georgian, 500 in Armenian, and 500 in Azerbaijani)
- ❖ Component for the Prevention of Hepatitis C and Enhancing Population's Knowledge (90% in Georgian, 5% in Armenian, and 5% in Azerbaijani)
- ❖ Information booklets on targeted monetary social aid (1,000 copies in Russian, 2,000 in Azerbaijani, and 2,000 in Armenian).

In addition, subtitles in Armenian and Azerbaijani were provided for 3 social videos on Hepatitis C.

Activities implemented by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia

Program for Developing Entrepreneurial Competencies among Youth

Under the Program for Developing Entrepreneurial Competencies among youth, a Memorandum was signed between **the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia** and the “*Zrda*” project of the United States Agency for International Development in 2017. To support activities seeking to ensure the development of young rural citizens, and to create employment/self-employment opportunities for them, the Ministry developed a new project titled ‘Regional School of Entrepreneurship’. The project aims to develop the entrepreneurial and innovative competencies of young people aged 17-29 in 4 municipalities of Georgia (Pankisi, Gori, Akhaltsikhe, and Zugdidi), with a view to using existing opportunities, ensuring personal development, and supporting startup initiatives and self-employment.

160 young people from all 4 municipalities participated in the project. With assistance from the trainers and mentors, a total of 35 entrepreneurial ideas were developed in all 4 municipalities. At the conclusion of the project, the authors of 13 best ideas from the 35 presented their products. They were given an opportunity to introduce their products to the public at large, and to meet with prospective partners and donors.

Volunteering Development Program

The program's goal is to strengthen volunteering, develop a unified network of volunteers throughout Georgia, attract more young people interested in volunteering, cooperate with the civil society, promote the idea of voluntary work to the benefit of society, and encourage the work of volunteers.

Under the program, a competition was held in Georgia's 64 municipalities and Tbilisi and 148 motivated young people aged 17-25 were selected, including representatives of ethnic minorities (2 volunteers from each municipality). The selected young people, after completing a preparatory training seminar, were granted the

status of Volunteer of Georgia for the term of 1 year. The volunteers carried out such activities as creating clubs of volunteers, environmental efforts, charity (helping people with different needs), film screening, delivering foreign language courses, promotion of healthy lifestyle (athletic contests and marathons), integration of children with special needs, celebration of important dates, facilitation of art activities, meetings with famous people and others.

- ❖ “**The Change for Equality**” project, which is implementing since 2013, involves the organization of awareness lectures and seminars. The project seeks to eliminate the isolation of persons with special needs, eradicate negative social stereotypes about persons with special needs, demonstrate their true abilities in independent life, and to forge an inclusive society. In 2017, mountainous villages, those along the boundary lines, and villages populated by ethnic minorities were prioritized, with events/meetings organized in Rustavi, Ozurgeti, Lagodekhi (the village of Kabali), Marneuli, Tzalka, Akhalkalaki, Ninotzminda, Mestia, and Batumi.

Social Aid Programs

In the Region of Kakheti different types of social aid was provided to more than 1,100 beneficiaries, including financing for medical services and medications, one-time financial assistance for economically and socially vulnerable families, assistance for newborn babies, support of large families, and others. 250,000 GEL in all was issued in social assistance under the program.

In the reporting period, 4,417 beneficiaries received 1,352,075 GEL in social aid in the municipalities compactly populated by ethnic minorities in **the Region of Samtskhe-Javakheti**, including 2,903 representatives of ethnic minorities:

- ❖ Of 1,538 beneficiary recipients of social aid in the Akhalkalaki Municipality, aid was allocated to 1,083 ethnic minority representatives (a total of 428,060 GEL).
- ❖ Of 1,540 beneficiary recipients of social aid in the Ninotzminda Municipality, aid was allocated to 1,420 ethnic minority representatives (a total of 317,195 GEL).
- ❖ Of 1,339 beneficiary recipients of social aid in the Akhalkalaki Municipality, aid was allocated to 400 ethnic minority representatives (a total of 119,544 GEL).

In the Kvemo Kartli Region social aid was allocated to 13,767 beneficiaries, including ethnic minority representatives (1,700 in Rustavi, 3,670 in Bolnisi, 3,400 in Gardabani, 731 in Dmanisi, 1,240 in Tetritzkaro, 2,276 in Marneuli, and 750 in Tzalka).

Infrastructural Rehabilitation

Work Implemented by the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia¹³

Implementation of infrastructural projects continued in the reporting period and involved installing natural gas supply and rehabilitation of internal roads, irrigation and drinking water systems, street lighting, and others. In particular:

Samtskhe-Javakheti Region

- ❖ Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the Samtskhe-Javakheti Region, 64 projects were financed (total value: 14,442,594 GEL).
- ❖ Under the Municipal Development Fund of Georgia LEPL, two projects were financed in the Akhaltsikhe and Akhalkalaki Municipalities (total value: 2,345,665 GEL).
- ❖ Under the Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements, six projects were financed (total value: 1,771,635 GEL).

Kvemo Kartli Region

- ❖ Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the Kvemo Kartli Region, 67 projects were financed (total value: 20,714,746 GEL).
- ❖ Under the Municipal Development Fund of Georgia LEPL, two projects were financed in the Dmanisi and Tetritskaro Municipalities (total value: 279,597 GEL).
- ❖ Under the Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements, four projects were financed (total value: 1,004,787 GEL).

Kakheti Region

- ❖ Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the Kakheti Region, 118 projects were financed (total value: 26,276,117 GEL).
- ❖ Under the Municipal Development Fund of Georgia LEPL, one project was financed in the Akhmeta Municipality (total value: 339,460 GEL).
- ❖ Under the Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements, five projects were financed (total value: 1,223,313 GEL).

Work Implemented by the The Administration of the State Attorney-Governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti

¹³ For full information, see Attachment 2.

To deal with the infrastructural challenges facing the region, 323 infrastructural projects were implemented in 2017 within the *Fund for Projects to Be Implemented in the Regions and the Mountain Fund*, and with financing from the local budget, with a total value of 42,664,376 GEL, including in administrative entities compactly populated by ethnic minorities. In all, 143 projects with the total value of 22,021,214 GEL were implemented.

The following were financed from local budgets:

- ❖ 25 infrastructural projects in the Akhaltsikhe Municipality, with a total value of 3,604,745 GEL
- ❖ 25 infrastructural projects in the Akhalkalaki Municipality, with a total value of 3,604,745 GEL
- ❖ 25 infrastructural projects in the Ninotzminda Municipality, with a total value of 1,403,160 GEL.

Work Implemented by the The Administration of the State Attorney-Governor of kakheti

In 2017, 36 infrastructural projects were implemented in the villages of the Kakheti Region populated by ethnic minorities, with a total value of 4,340,400 GEL.

The following were financed from local budgets:

- ❖ 1 project in the Akhmeta Municipality (15,549 GEL)
- ❖ 1 project in the Lagodekhi Municipality (5,375 GEL)
- ❖ 13 projects in the Sagarejo Municipality (189,944 GEL).

Co-financing from the local budget in infrastructural projects implemented from other funds made up 201,038 GEL.

Work Implemented by the The Administration of the State Attorney-Governor of Kvemo Kartli

356 infrastructural projects were implemented in 2017 through the Fund for Projects to Be Implemented in the Regions and the Mountain Fund, and with financing from the local budget, with a total value of 58,000,000 GEL, including in administrative entities compactly populated by ethnic minorities.

- ❖ 50 projects in the Tzalka Municipality (2,663,400 GEL)
- ❖ 38 projects in Dmanisi (3,277,000 GEL)
- ❖ 74 projects in Marneuli (9,280,600 GEL)
- ❖ 31 projects in Gardabani (16,862,000 GEL)
- ❖ 23 projects in Bolnisi (336,658 GEL)
- ❖ 2 projects in Tetritzkaro (137,000 GEL).

III. Ensuring Access to Quality Education and Improving Knowledge of State Language

Special attention was paid to ensuring access to quality education and improving knowledge of the state language, as an important tool of civic integration.

Each educational level is available to representatives of ethnic minorities. Education is also available in the native languages of ethnic minorities (Azerbaijani, Armenian, and Russian).

There are 211 non-Georgian language public schools and 76 non-Georgian language sectors in Georgia, including 82 Azerbaijani, 118 Armenian, and 11 Russian-language schools, along with 32 Georgian-Azerbaijani sectors, 29 Georgian-Russian sectors, 10 Georgian-Armenian sectors, one Georgian-Azerbaijani-Russian sector, and one Georgian-Russian-Armenian sector. The Ministry of Education and Science has taken numerous steps in this direction, namely:

- ❖ National standards for early and preschool education were developed to include in educational resources ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity, to spur Georgian language teaching by teachers in the regions populated by ethnic minorities, to encourage in each student respect for the different. A separate provision in the Professional Standard of Pedagogues defines professional characteristics for teachers of Georgian as a secondary language (see chapter 8, The Professional Standard of Pedagogues).
- ❖ The ethnic minority native language standards (Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Russian) were developed for basic levels (7th-9th grades, first version).
- ❖ Annual curricula for the elementary level (1st-4th grades) is being developed together with experts in the native languages of ethnic minorities.
- ❖ The native language standard for the elementary level (1st-4th grades) is being translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani.
- ❖ Special attention has been paid to enhancing the qualification of pedagogues in non-Georgian language schools.
- ❖ In the reporting period, the area of the Program for Providing Schoolchildren with Transport was expanded.
- ❖ Under the Summer School Program *Spending School Break and Learning Together*, in 2017, summer camps were organized for the students of small regional public schools of Georgia, with a total of 1,045 young representatives of ethnic minorities.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, and its subordinate legal entities of public law, continued implementing various programs and projects in the reporting period.

National Educational Olympiad

In 2017, the National Educational Olympiad was held for representatives of ethnic minorities, with participation of students of non-Georgian language schools.

Subject	Number of Students
Georgian as a second language	1841
Subject in the Azerbaijani language	3681
Subject in the Armenian language	3598
Subject in the Russian language	1208

The third round revealed winners, including 10 Russian-speaking participants.

School Graduation Exams

The 2017 school graduation exams were taken by:

Armenian-speaking students	1512
Azerbaijani-speaking students	2057
Russian-speaking students	1137

The following seekers of complete general education certificates received positive grades:

Armenian-speaking students	866
Azerbaijani-speaking students	838
Russian-speaking students	889

Enhancing Access to Higher Education

To facilitate access to higher education for ethnic minorities, the Educational Program for Studying the Georgian Language has been operating since 2010, enrolling students based on the results of Abkhazian, Ossetian, Azerbaijani, or Armenian-language basic skills tests.

Notably, the number of ethnic minority students in Georgia's schools of higher education has grown significantly. In 2015, 741 applicants were enrolled, 960 in 2016, and 1,046 applicants passed Azerbaijani and Armenian-language basic skills tests to enroll:

- 673 applicants based on Azerbaijani-language General Aptitude test.
- 373 applicants based on Armenian-language General Aptitude test.
- One applicant based on Ossetian-language General Aptitude test was enrolled.

The following applicants received state grant:

Based on Ossetian-language test	1
Based on Azerbaijani-language test	83
Based on Armenian-language test	95

In the reporting period, 5 cadets (3 Azerbaijanis and 2 Armenians) were enrolled in the 3rd and 4th year of the Georgian language learning program of the Battalion of Cadets at **Davit Aghmashenebeli National Defense Academy of Georgia**. At present, 1 Armenian cadet is enrolled.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, 3 Azerbaijani students enrolled on the Georgian language learning program at **the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia**. The bachelor's degree program in law enrolls 4 Azerbaijani, 4 Armenian, 1 Ossetian, and 1 Turkish students, including 4 ethnic Azerbaijanis, 3 Armenians, and 1 Turkish students admitted in the 2017-2018 academic year.

The Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality paid special attention to raising awareness about higher education opportunities offered to ethnic minorities. Meetings were held to discuss the Studying the Georgian Language within the “1+4” Program (Bolnisi, Akhalkalaki, and Lagodekhi Municipalities). Information meetings were attended by representatives of the National Assessment and Examinations Center, the Ministry of Interior, and Davit Aghmashenebeli National Defense Academy of Georgia.

Ensuring Professional and Adult Education

In the reporting period, work continued to provide representatives of ethnic minorities with access to professional education. In this context, active work was implemented by Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration LEPL. The goal of this school is to overcome the lack for qualified public service human resources in Georgia's mountainous areas compactly populated by ethnic minorities, through enhancing the qualifications of public servants and teaching ethnic minority representatives, and all interested persons, the official language.

In the reporting year, the Public Administration School implemented the Public Governance and Administration Program consisting of six discipline directions: state procurements, public organization management, human resources management and records-keeping in the public sector, public finances management, public relations and communications, and technical supervision of infrastructural projects. The program in 2017 was completed by 89 students.

To participate in professional programs, 32 applicants applied to pass tests in Armenian, Russian, or Azerbaijani in the 2017 spring entrance exams, while 76 applicants applied in the 2017 fall entrance exams.

38 professional education students were engaged in the Georgian language module on professional education programs under the spring and fall exams.

In 2017, 352 teachers completed training using the Module for Preventing Bullying in School and Developing the Culture of Tolerance. Besides trainings for civic education teachers, trainings were delivered in the framework competences for democratic culture and 60 teachers of different subjects and levels were trained. After the training the teachers assumed work with their students on 3-5 minute video on the competences of democratic culture. The best video covered gender stereotypes. The student authors were invited by the

Council of Europe to attend the final conference in Strasbourg. The Gender Mainstreaming in Education training module was also developed.

Different professional retraining educational programs¹⁴ (training detectives, patrol police officers, and special professional educational programs for district police officers and border police officers of the Land Border Protection Department of the Border Police of Georgia) are underway at **the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) of Georgia**, with a total of 301 graduates. Under the Law and Order Project, 36 public schoolchildren representatives of ethnic minorities from the villages of Vakhtangisi and Lemshveniera, Gardabani Municipality visited the MIA Academy, with a total of 950 schoolchildren/students visiting the MIA Academy in 2017.

In 2017, the local branch of the Community College “*Aisi*” was rehabilitated in the village of Shroma, **Lagodekhi Municipality**. Similarly, preparatory work is underway to develop a school of professional education in the Marneuli Municipality.

To implement a project by **the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia** “Book for Every Village” 10,000 books in the amount of 15,000 GEL were collected, categorized by genre, and delivered to the regions (Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti, Shida Kartli, and Mtskheta-Mtianeti) in May-June.

Enhancing the Qualification of Teachers in Non-Georgian Language Schools

Professional Development Program for Teachers in Non-Georgian Language Schools

The implementation of “Professional Development Program for Teachers in Non-Georgian Language Schools” was continued which aimed at fostering the professional development of teachers in non-Georgian language schools and sectors and to improve teaching/learning by promoting official language teaching. In addition, the program focuses on the preparation of local teachers of non-Georgian language schools for subject exams and on teaching them the official language (2016-2019).

The Professional Development Program for Teachers in Non-Georgian Language Schools also seeks to overcome the lack in human resources in the non-Georgian language schools of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, and Kakheti. To this end, the following were assigned to the schools:

- ❖ 118 consultants/teachers of Georgian as a second language
- ❖ 114 teachers of Georgian as a second language and social sciences assistant teachers
- ❖ 50 bilingual assistant teachers in various subjects defined in the national curriculum.

¹⁴ The following courses are offered under the program: human rights, police in multiethnic society, public-oriented police, domestic violence/antidiscrimination and gender equality.

A number of activities were implemented under the **School Principal/Teacher Professional Development Project by the Millennium Challenge Account Georgia**:

- ❖ Validation of subject examination and subject and professional competences was held in July 2017, with 177 Russian-, 369 Armenian-, and 387 Azerbaijani-speaking applicants.
- ❖ Leadership Academy 1 and 2 were held, with 3 modules of Leadership Academy 1 (40 contact hours in all) and 5 modules of Leadership Academy 2 (64 contact hours in all) with handout training materials translated into the Azerbaijani, Russian, and Armenian languages.
- ❖ Leadership Academy 1 trainings in 3 modules were delivered for non-Georgian speaking public school principals and facilitator (100 Armenian-, 58 Azerbaijani-, and 9 Russian-speaking). Trainings were held for Azerbaijani- and Russian-language public school principals and facilitators (81 delegates).
- ❖ 3 basic professional skills modules, along with all accompanying training materials, were translated into Azerbaijani, Russian, and Armenian languages, including Characteristics of Student-Oriented Learning Environment, Student-Oriented Educational Environment and Evaluation Strategies, and Positive Learning Process Management and Readiness for Professional Development.
- ❖ Trainings in the first module of basic professional skills were delivered for chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics, geography, and English language teachers of non-Georgian language schools. 1,547 teachers (2,091 teachers were invited) attended the training (74%).

Promoting Better Teaching of the State Language

Enhancing knowledge of the state language is a considerable challenge for civic integration process. Programs and projects seeking to better knowledge of the state language are continued at each level of education.

In order to enhance access to and promote the state (Georgian) language a range of activities were planned and implemented under the “*Irbakhi*” program aimed at teaching Georgian as a foreign language. The materials were uploaded on the www.geofl.ge website. The materials include: “*The Aghmarti*” Georgian language textbook for foreign learners (A2+, B2, and B2+ language proficiency levels), adapted reading materials (B1, B2, and B2+ language proficiency levels), Self-Evaluation Scales for Learners, and the Learning Explanatory-Translation-Audio Electronic Dictionary (B1.1 language proficiency level). Throughout the year, the website had 27,000 users.

Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration LEPL continued its work on improving the level of knowledge of the official language, implementing the Program for Teaching the Official Language. Under the program, representatives of ethnic minorities employed in the public sector, local self-government bodies, regional administrations, the resource centers of the Ministry of Education, employees of public schools, and

all other stakeholders became able to study the state language at 10 regional learning centers¹⁵ and 175 mobile groups run by the School of Public Administration in 71 villages. In the course of 2017, the Program for Studying the State Language was joined by 3,247 beneficiaries (1,423 Armenian, 1,620 Azerbaijani, 3 Russian, 2 Greek, 11 Georgian, 6 Chechen, 8 Ossetian, and 1 Ukrainian beneficiaries).

Under the Program for the Professional Development of Teachers in Non-Georgian Language Schools of the National Center for Teacher Professional Development, a learning course in the state language was delivered for two groups of successful local teachers from non-Georgian language schools in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, and Kakheti (a total of 1,080 participants).

Teachers, who verified knowledge of the state language at least at the A2 level, became able to attend the following professional development training modules under the program:

- ❖ Planning, Management, and Evaluation of the Learning Process—283 participants
- ❖ Inclusive Teaching in Non-Georgian Schools—126 participants.

The consultants/teachers of the Program for the Professional Development of Teachers in Non-Georgian Language Schools delivered a learning course in the state language for two groups of local teachers from non-Georgian language schools in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, and Kakheti. From 540 participants 80 studied the A1 level, 303 the A2+ level, and 157 the B1 level. Upon completion of the language course, 440 participants of 460 reported for the final evaluation, and 55 confirmed proficiency the A1 level, 171 the A2 level, and 108 the B1 level.

In addition, different agencies implemented concrete activities to enhance knowledge of the official language:

In close cooperation between **the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality and the Ministry of Education and Science**, since February 2017, the Abkhazian language instruction is introduced at Batumi Public School #14 and the Peria Village Public School (Khevlachauri municipality). Since August, Georgian language learning courses were launched in the Akhalkalaki Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

The Georgian language course was delivered at the House of Friendship operating under **the Tbilisi Municipal Sakrebulo Assembly**. Under the project, 38 representatives of ethnic minorities attended a three-month learning course, of whom 20 completed the course. Currently, 95 representatives of ethnic minorities are involved in Georgian language learning courses.

¹⁵ Akhalkalaki, Ninotzmdinda, Tzalka, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Marneuli, Gardabani, Sagarejo, Akhmeta, and Lagodekhi.

The National Youth Palace non-commercial legal entity¹⁶ runs the Georgian Language for Non-Georgian Students club.

The Department of Social Affairs at **the Ministry of Corrections** ensures the involvement of non-Georgian-speaking inmates in the study program of the Georgian language. In 2017, 74 non-Georgian-speaking inmates participated in the courses.

The Learning Center at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia offered free Georgian language courses to Georgia's non-Georgian-speaking citizens. In 2017, state language learning courses were delivered at the community centers of the village of Sadakhlo, Marneuli Municipality (23 participants) and the village of Iormughanlo, Sagarejo Municipality (16 participants).

IV. Preserving the Culture of Ethnic Minorities and Encouraging Tolerant Environment

During the reporting period various programs/projects seeking to protect, develop, and promote the cultures of ethnic minorities were implemented. To encourage cultural expression and further integration, promoting the work of museums and theaters through financial assistance was a very important undertaking.

Supporting Theaters

- ❖ **Petros Adamyan Tbilisi State Armenian Professional Drama Theater LEPL** staged 15 plays, including 3 premiers, with 3,592 viewers attending. The year's total financing was 396,000 GEL.
- ❖ **Heydar Aliyev Tbilisi State Professional Azerbaijani Drama Theater LEPL** staged 7 plays, 2 field trip performances in Gardabani, 2 premiers, 1 tour in Adana, Turkey attended by 850 Turkish viewers. The year's total financing was 220,881 GEL.
- ❖ **Alexander Griboyedov Tbilisi State Russian Professional Drama Theater LEPL** held 103 performances, with 3,147 viewers attending, 20 tour performances in Mogilev. The theater's financing made up 1,089,000 GEL.

Supporting Museums

¹⁶ 237 student representatives of ethnic minorities attend the palace and participate in different clubs, events, and activities.

- ❖ **David Baazov Museum of History of Jews of Georgia LEPL and Georgian-Jewish Relations LEPL:** The publication of the book “Anthology of the Poetry by Georgian Jews” was supported by David Baazov Museum of History of Jews of Georgia LEPL and Georgian-Jewish Relations. The book’s presentation was held in the *Eshkol Pais* House of Culture in Bat Yam, Israel. The museum held 2 exhibitions, 1 cultural event, 1 anniversary event, and 1 meeting, also recorded 2 TV and radio shows. The year’s financing made up 115,000 GEL.
- ❖ **Mirza Fatali Akhundov Museum of Azerbaijani Culture LEPL**, in 2017, held 4 exhibitions, a documentary screening, 2 cultural and educational events, and 1 presentation. The year’s financing made up 37,000 GEL.
- ❖ **The Smirnov Family Museum LEPL** opened in April, with a budget of 63,216 GEL, holding 3 events, including a film presentation and meetings.

Throughout the year, special attention was paid to protecting the cultural heritage and tangible and intangible cultural values of ethnic minorities.

Rehabilitation of Monuments of Cultural Heritage

Federal Republic of Germany grants EUR 50 000 for the publication of the book "Architectural Heritage of German Colonists in Georgia".

It is also planned to develop rehabilitation projects for the mosques in the village of Ota, Aspindza Municipality and the village of Sakuneti, Akhaltsikhe Municipality.

Supporting Cultural Events

In 2017, **the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia** allocated 186,750 GEL for the priority direction “Promoting Ethnic Minorities”. Under the priority, exhibitions, publications, performances, events, and other cultural activities celebrating representatives of ethnic minority cultures were arranged and 14 projects were supported. (See attachment 3).

To promote intercultural dialogue and foster civic integration, **the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality** in cooperation with relevant agencies, implemented the following activities:

- ❖ ***Pankisoba 2017*:** With involvement from the Office of the State Minister, the large-scale “*Pankisoba*” Festival was held in the village of Duisi. Under the activity, different state agencies showcased

exhibitions reflecting their works. As part of the folk festival, cultural, athletic, and educational activities were held, and prominent, honorable citizens were awarded.

- ❖ ***Week of Vainakh Culture:*** As part of cooperation between the Office of the State Minister and the Gori State Teaching University, a diverse and rich program was carried out, including a concert, public lectures, an exhibition of Kisti folklore and artworks, a presentation of Vainakh-themed books, a presentation of videos featuring the Pankisi Gorge and Kisti women from Pankisi, introduction of the works of Kisti poets, a play performed by children's theater, athletic events, and others.
- ❖ ***Festival of Multiethnic Arts Under One Sky—Dialogue of Cultures:*** Through financial support from the UN Association of Georgia, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, *Under One Sky—Dialogue of Cultures*, a festival of multiethnic arts, was held with the participation of Georgian youths and young representatives of the ethnic minorities living in Georgia. In 2017, two concerts were held under the festival (in Akhaltsikhe and Rustavi).
- ❖ The Office of the State Minister organized a folk concert celebrating Georgia's Independence Day was held in Mtskheta. Representatives of ethnic minorities recited passages from *The Knight in the Panther's Skin* in Georgian and their native languages. During the same performances, winners of the Georgian Language—Path to My Success competition, announced by the Office of the State Minister, were awarded.
- ❖ During the week dedicated to International Day of Tolerance, numerous events were held. As part of cooperation with the UN Association of Georgia, a formal reception was held to award the winners of the media competition Georgia's Ethnic Diversity.
- ❖ An event commemorating the 73rd anniversary of the deportation of the Chechen and Ingush peoples was held at the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia. The participants consisted of members of different scientific communities, public figures, students of Georgia's schools of higher education, and guests from the Pankisi Gorge.
- ❖ The Office of the State Minister and the Georgian Parliament organized an event celebrating Ossetia-Georgia relation at Shota Rustaveli Parliamentary Hall. The event, which sought to promote Ossetian culture, featured music and dance performances by the Nartebi dance ensemble at the Administration of South Ossetia, the Liakhvi song ensemble, and the Tskhinvali Theater.
- ❖ Throughout the year, the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality of Georgia periodically, on ethnic minorities' national and religious holidays, sends holiday messages to Georgia's ethnic and religious minorities, the country's population in general, and the diplomatic corps.

Work Performed by the Administrations of the State Attorney- Governors

The Regional Administration of **Samtskhe-Javakheti** is actively involved in the organization of activities fostering the preservation of the cultures and unique identity of ethnic minorities. Clubs operate and song and dance ensembles function in the administrative entities. Music schools operate in Akhalkalaki and Ninotzminda, also art schools in Akhalkalaki and Akhaltsikhe, which participate both in local and international exhibitions. To protect cultural traditions, local funds are also used to support and finance various activities. In all, 183 cultural facilities and 11 art and music schools operate in the Samtskhe-Javakheti Municipality.

- **Work Performed by the Administration of the State Attorney-Governor of Kakheti**

In the reporting period, a variety of religious, cultural and athletic events were planned and carried out with the participation of ethnic minorities, such as *Nowruz Bayram*, the *Bread and Wine Festival*, the *Kostaoba* festive event celebrating the 158th anniversary of Kosta Khetagurov, a concert dedicated to Georgia's Independence Day, an event honoring International Teachers Day, and others.

The region's ethnic minority representatives were actively involved in the athletic events, and special attention was paid to the introduction of healthy lifestyle among the youth of the Pankisi Gorge. Successful athletes participated in both regional and international competitions in judo, Greco-Roman wrestling, bodybuilding, rugby, kickboxing, and football in line with athletic school agendas.

- Under the Bakhtrioni Football School LEPL, four football clubs operate (in the villages of Duisi, Jokolo, Birkiani, and Omalo), with 4 coaches/teachers training almost 80 children.
- ❖ Z. Zviadauri Judo School LEPL: 3 wrestling arenas operate in the Gorge (in the villages of Duisi, Sakobiano, and Demasturi), where almost 120 children are engaged in 6 different groups. In 2017, novice athletes participated in various tournaments.
- ❖ Under the Complex Sports School LEPL, 4 athletic groups operate in 2017 (kickboxing, Greco-Roman wrestling, and bodybuilding), with 8 coaches/teachers training almost 150 children.

The staff of the Lagodekhi Center for Youth Affairs and Sport initiated the establishment of a day center. The project was co-financed by the Leli Community Center and the Center for Youth Affairs and Sports Development, where representatives of ethnic minorities and socially vulnerable schoolchildren enjoy assistance in their homework and improving their skills.

- **Work Performed by the Administration of the State Attorney-Governor of Kvemo Kartli**

Representatives of ethnic minorities are actively involved in the cultural and athletic activities carried out in the Region of Kvemo Kartli. Various events were held throughout the region, such as *Kha b’Nisan*, *Nowruz Bayram*, *Garisoba*, *Day of Tolerance*, and the *Unified Caucasus Festival*, an exhibition dedicated to peace, an event commemorating Aghaiani, and an event honoring the 200th anniversary of the settlement of German Swabians in the village of Asureti. In addition, representatives were equally engaged and involved in the events celebrating *International Women’s Day*, *Day of Mother Tongue*, *Earth Day*, *Day of Independence*, and *International Day for Protection of Children*.

The municipalities continued to support monuments of culture, also other building, historical facilities, and houses of prayer.

Representatives of ethnic minorities are equally involved in all athletic activities and events carried out in the Region of Kvemo Kartli, namely football, wrestling, basketball, judo, volleyball, kickboxing, and other local and regional contests. 66 athletes, among them 13 ethnic minority representatives, participated in school-level athletic Olympiads, Sport without Barriers athletic festivals, also in international tournaments.

In the reporting period, various cultural, educational, and athletic activities were implemented in the penitentiaries of **the Ministry of Corrections, in particular** 337 cultural and 35 athletic activities. Ethnic minority inmates were actively involved in the above-mentioned activities.

Notably, every penitentiary operates a special room where adherents of different creeds meet with their spiritual guides and perform religious rites. In addition, the Women’s Penitentiary #5 has a special room for Muslim defendants/convicts to perform worship.

Work Performed by the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia

In the reporting period, the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia actively cooperated with the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, the Center for Tolerance at the Office of the Public Defender, and the ethnic minority diasporas in Georgia.

In close cooperation with partner organizations, 3 events were held in 2017 at the National Library, including photo exhibitions, concerts, and book presentations, all of which sought to integrate the cultural heritage, arts, and traditions of Georgia’s ethnic minorities into the general cultural environment.

The National Parliamentary Library of Georgia implemented the following activities:

- ❖ An event celebrating the 93rd anniversary of Sergo Parajanov

- ❖ Under the Equilibrium Movement of the National Library, a library opened in the non-Georgian language school of the village of Lambalo, Sagarejo Municipality
- ❖ Under the Equilibrium Movement of the National Library, books were handed to the non-Georgian language schools of the Bolnisi Municipality (Savaneti, Kvemo Arkevani).

Work Performed by the Tbilisi Municipality

In the reporting period, the House of Friendship operating under the Tbilisi Municipal *Sakrebulo* Assembly continued its active work. The House of Friendship continuously hosted cultural and educational events (folk festivals, Maslenitsa, a week of prominent authors held by the Belorussian Diaspora, awarding honorary citizenship to Director of the Jewish Center Zaira Davarashvili, and others), along with trainings (Successful Negotiating and Mobilizing Supporters) actively attended by representatives of ethnic minorities.

On the initiative of the *Sakrebulo* Assembly, the 10th Conference on Knowing the Caucasus Better was held, with senior students from Telavi and Pankisi participating along with their peers from Tbilisi. The conference's participants presented works on the culture, history, traditions, and customs of and centuries-old relations between the Caucasian peoples. Students' works dedicated to the Caucasus were showcased.

Currently, active way is in full swing on the establishment of the Museum of Ethnic Minorities at the Tbilisi House of Friendship.

Work Performed by the Batumi Municipality

The house of Friendship operating at the Batumi Municipality-supported Batumi Center of Culture LEPL facilitated meetings with writers, poets, and other arts specialists, also presentations of books and exhibitions of rookie artists. Quizzes, artistic events, and conferences were facilitated for schoolchildren and students.

Work Performed by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia

- ❖ The Mount Khvamli Youth Camp: An archeological camp was arranged on Mount Khvamli, and trips to Mount Khvamli and the Utzvashi Castle were planned. The participants attended a first aid training and archeology and history lectures. The project put together 19 youths (7 boys and 12 girls), of which 5 represented ethnic minorities.
- ❖ The project seeking to foster the engagement of the local youths in the development of tourism in Pankisi, Tusheti, and Pshav-Khevsureti included training of 15 youths as mountain trail tour guides. After the 3-day training, a 9-day field trip was planned and implemented, during which the youths traveled from the Pankisi Gorge to Tusheti and marked out a new trail route. Under the project, a

detailed description of the Pankisi-Tbatana-Borbalo-Tusheti route was prepared to be subsequently published in electronic and print formats.

- ❖ The Eco Camp project aims to raise awareness about the importance of ecology and environment among youths, and to engage and encourage those interested in said areas in informal educational activities. This inclusive group brought together youths aged 14-16 throughout Georgia. As part of the Eco Camp, gardening and cleaning campaigns were carried out. The participants worked on such issues as active citizenship, volunteering, team building, peer education, Georgia's protected areas, waste management, climate change and natural disasters, project development, and presentation skills. Equally exciting and informative activities were employed during the participants' visit to the Lagodekhi Protected Area. The group consisted of participants from Tbilisi, Marneuli, Hereti (Kakhi), Lagodekhi, Gardabani, and Ninotzminda.

V. Fulfilment of International Obligations

Under different international tools, Georgia is fulfilling a variety of obligations related to ethnic minorities. Georgia is a signatory to the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Consequently, the country has assumed responsibilities for protecting the rights of ethnic minorities and ensuring their honorable participation in the country's development. Based on above-mentioned mechanism, the Office of the State Minister coordinated the development of the State Report under the 3rd Monitoring Cycle which was submitted to the Council of Europe in July 2017. The report reflects the activities implemented in 2012-2017 and the general state of affairs in terms of equality, respect for the rights of ethnic minorities, and civic integration.

In the process of implementing the 2017 Action Plan, the Office of the State Minister actively cooperated with the civil sector, international organizations, the diplomatic corps accredited in the country, local and international experts, the Council for Ethnic Minorities at the Office of the Public Defender. In addition, the Office of the State Minister develops communication with the residents of the regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities and representatives of local self-governments and NGOs.

To implement the activities, events, and projects under the Action Plan, the Office of the State Minister enjoyed assistance under the Promoting Integration, Tolerance and Awareness (PITA) program run by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the UN Association of Georgia (UNAG).

Attachment 1

Small Grants Allocated by the CEC to Civil Society Organizations and Ethnic Minority Communities to Carry Out Election Awareness Campaigns and Strengthen the Culture of Voting

	Local NGO	Project Coverage Area	Budget
1	Public Advocacy non-commercial legal entity	Akhmeta, Kvareli, Lagodekhi, Telavi	25,035 GEL
2	New Generation Democratic Election non-commercial legal entity	Rustavi, Gardabani, Tzalka, Tetritzkaro	25,095 GEL
3	Public Movement Multinational Georgia non-commercial legal entity	Samtskhe-Javakheti	37,907 GEL
4	Informed Society non-commercial legal entity	Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi	18,220 GEL
5	International Student Initiative non-commercial legal entity	Samtskhe-Javakheti	18,965 GEL
6	Youth Center Our Generation 1921 non-commercial legal entity	Dedoplistzkaro, Sighnaghi, Gurjaani	18,842 GEL
7	Paros Union Women's NGO, non-commercial legal entity	Ninotzminda, Akhaltsikhe	18,954 GEL
8	Healthy World non-commercial legal entity	Sagarejo, Telavi, Lagodekhi	18,550 GEL
		Total	181,568 GEL

Attachment 2

Infrastructural Rehabilitation

Kvemo Kartli Region

Rustavi

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 11 projects were financed in the Rustavi Municipality (a total value of 7,436,441 GEL).

Bolnisi

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 10 projects were financed in the Bolnisi Municipality (a total value of 5,041,835 GEL).

Gardabani

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 1 project was financed in the Gardabani Municipality (a total value of 2,289,053 GEL).

Dmanisi

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 4 projects were financed in the Dmanisi Municipality (a total value of 1,466,923 GEL).
- The Municipal Development Fund of Georgia LEPL financed 1 project in the Dmanisi Municipality (a total value of 170,240 GEL).
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 1 project in the Dmanisi Municipality (a total value of 320,092 GEL).

Tetritzkaro

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 5 projects were financed in the Tetritzkaro Municipality (a total value of 2,758,752 GEL).
- The Municipal Development Fund of Georgia LEPL financed 2 projects in the Tetritzkaro Municipality (a total value of 4,404,945 GEL).

- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 1 project in the Tetrizkaro Municipality (a total value of 332,500 GEL).

Marneuli

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 21 projects were financed in the Marneuli Municipality (a total value of 5,668,007 GEL).

Tzalka

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 10 projects were financed in the Tzalka Municipality (a total value of 2,455,573 GEL).
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 2 projects in the Tzalka Municipality (a total value of 396,560 GEL).

In 2017, the Roads Department at the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia financed 6 projects in Kvemo Kartli (a total value of 8,777,306.29 GEL, with two ongoing projects with 223,013.03 GEL in financing in 2017).

Samtskhe-Javakheti Region

Akhalsikhe

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 12 projects were financed in the Akhalsikhe Municipality (a total value of 3,464,643 GEL).
- The Municipal Development Fund of Georgia LEPL financed two projects in the Akhalsikhe Municipality (a total value of 1,534,812 GEL).
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 2 projects in the Akhalsikhe Municipality (a total value of 574,944 GEL).

Akhalkalaki

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 9 projects were financed in the Akhalkalaki Municipality (a total value of 4,783,867 GEL).
- The Municipal Development Fund of Georgia LEPL financed 1 project in the Akhalsikhe Municipality (a total value of 1,409,556 GEL).
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 1 project in the Akhalkalaki Municipality (a total value of 177,773 GEL).

Adigeni

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 6 projects were financed in the Adigeni Municipality (a total value of 2,285,505 GEL).
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 1 project in the Adigeni Municipality (a total value of 275,000 GEL).

Aspindza

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 6 projects were financed in the Aspindza Municipality (a total value of 2,638,878 GEL).
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 1 project in the Aspindza Municipality (a total value of 272,419 GEL).

Ninotzminda

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 3 projects were financed in the Ninotzminda Municipality (a total value of 1,879,878 GEL).
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 1 project in the Ninotzminda Municipality (a total value of 272,419 GEL).

Borjomi

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 19 projects were financed in the Borjomi Municipality (a total value of 6,425,614 GEL).
- The Municipal Development Fund of Georgia LEPL financed 3 projects in the Borjomi Municipality (a total value of 4,706,113 GEL).

In 2017, the Roads Department at the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia financed 6 projects in the Samtskhe-Javakheti Region (a total value of 29,076,038.27 GEL, with 4 ongoing projects with 1,372,527.88 GEL in financing in 2017).

Kakheti Region

Lagodekhi

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 15 projects were financed in the Lagodekhi Municipality (a total value of 3,840,434 GEL).

Akhmeta

- Under the fund for projects to be implemented in the regions, 12 projects were financed in the Akhmeta Municipality (a total value of 2,840,434 GEL).
- The Municipal Development Fund of Georgia LEPL financed 4 projects in the Akhmeta Municipality (a total value of 3,162,012 GEL).
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 4 projects in the Akhmeta Municipality (a total value of 1,118,024 GEL).

In 2017, the Roads Department at the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia financed 4 projects in the Kakheti Region (a total value of 2,068,653.44 GEL).

Attachment 3

The following projects were financed under the “Promoting Ethnic Minorities Priority”

- ❖ **Under The Way of Love, a project by the Women’s Council of Georgia**, an exhibition and a concert was facilitated in Borjomi to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Georgia-Ukraine relations, with Ukrainian, Ossetian, Armenian, Greek, and Georgian participants from Samtskhe-Javakheti, with a presentation of their traditional dishes held, and a master class in traditional Ukrainian arts and crafts delivered.
- ❖ **Armenian Culture in Multiethnic Georgia, a project by the Union of Georgian Armenians**, was designed to organize creative activities of ethnic minorities in the capital and the regions, including a concert and an exhibition and promotion of the unique characteristics of Armenian culture in Georgia.
- ❖ **An Exhibition and Concert of Kisti Folklore and Arts at the State Center, a project by the Caucasian Women’s Congress Women’s Union**, was held to introduce the Georgian public to the examples of Kisti folklore and arts. The event included a concert and an exhibition at the Folklore State Center in Tbilisi.
- ❖ **Under Tbilisi Courtyard—Historical Connection, a project by Art Area TV2.0 non-commercial legal entity**, a concert of ethnic music was held in one of Tbilisi’s courtyards with exceptional architecture, with representatives of Tbilisi’s ethnic minorities participating.
- ❖ **Under the Cultural Heritage of Kurdish Yezidis in Georgia, a project by the Women’s Rights Community Initiatives non-commercial legal entity**, exhibitions of works by Kurdish Yezidi artists and traditional artisans were held in Tbilisi, Batumi, and Telavi, with Georgian-Yezidi tunes and

national Yezidi dances performed, traditional attire showcased, and a presentation of Georgian-Yezidi dishes held.

- ❖ **The Ornament project by individual entrepreneur Nino Chichinadze** was designed to teach textile manufacturing to the ethnic minorities in the Pankisi Gorge. 2 groups with 10-12 students in each were put together, and the final exhibition was held at the Center of Arts in the village of Duisi.
- ❖ **The Caucasian Chalk Circle by Studio Asteroid non-commercial legal entity** staged and performed the Caucasian Chalk Circle play with the participation of ethnic minority students (Ilia University).
- ❖ **Creative Educational Courses in the Regions of Georgia, a project by Contact non-commercial legal entity**, aimed to organize 1-month creative educational courses for ethnic minority students in Georgia's regions. 2 groups were put together (group 1: 5th through 8th grades and group 2: 9th through 11th grades). Group 1 worked on visualization for the book Illustrated Compilation of Modern Georgian Stories, while group 2 worked on the publication of a monthly magazine.
- ❖ **Traditions of Ethnic Diversity and Artistic Transformations, a project by the Academy of Georgian Culture non-commercial legal entity**, seeks to create decorative and artistic examples, accessories, interior details, and souvenirs after distinguished pieces of the cultures of different ethnic groups and to showcase them in Tbilisi, Bakuriani, Kareli, Akhaltsikhe, and Borjomi. Along with the exhibition, a folk concert was held at the Georgian Composers Union, and a picture book/booklet was published.
- ❖ Under **Ancient Assyrian Traditions, a project by the Nineveh Assyrian Youth Organization**, an event celebrating the Assyrian language was held. Traditional Assyrian dishes were also offered, and an exhibition of traditional attire and works by Assyrian fashion Rita Eldaeva designer was also held.
- ❖ **Peace Messages from Nikozi, a project by the Caucasian Mosaic non-commercial legal entity**, was designed to organize an exhibition for the population along the boundary line. Consequently, a cultural event with Georgian and Ossetian artists participating and a tasting of Georgian and Ossetian dishes were held.
- ❖ An exhibition was held as part of the Preserving the Traditions of Handmaid Azerbaijani Rugs project by **Fatali Akhundov Museum of Azerbaijani Culture non-commercial legal entity**.
- ❖ Vainakh Fairy Tales was published to feature Vainakh traditions and ethnic culture.
- ❖ The Diverse Georgia project was implemented seeking to implement cultural and educational activities in Georgia's regions densely populated by ethnic minorities. Events were held in Bolnisi, Marneuli, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Gardabani, and Pankisi. A series of lectures was dedicated to Nikoloz Baratashvili and Ilia Chavchavadze, also meetings with authors and publishers were held, and so were presentations of anniversary compilations and translations supported by the ministry. In addition, exhibitions of works by visiting artists and photographers from Azerbaijan and Armenia were held, and the latest acclaimed feature films and animations were screened.

Notably, on May 15 and 16, 2017, under the project, events celebrating Shota Rustaveli were held in Akhaltsikhe and Vardzia, with prominent Rustaveli experts, scholars, and artists participating. The event was attended by 350 young people.

- ❖ The Erisioni State Academic Ensemble of Song and Dance LEPL participated in the event dedicated to the folk festival in Pankisi, and an exhibition of folk crafts was held.
- ❖ The State Shadow Theater Squealing Phaeton Abkhazia LEPL performed the Four Seasons play at the Center of Culture in the village of Duisi, Akhmeta District.
 - In 2017, the ministry prepared and published Faces and Situations, a book by Guram Baratashvili, which describes the works of theater professionals and relevant past and ongoing processes in theater.
 - The Charisma of Bazhbeuk, a photo book reflecting the life and works of acclaimed Armenian artist Al. Bazhbeuk-Melikov, was prepared and published.
 - The Museum of Theater, Cinema and Choreography LEPL published the Koka Ignatov—Tbilisi's Multicultural Symbol photo book.
 - The Textiles from Georgia photo book is related to Georgian textiles, the aesthetic values of attire, different cultural influences, and the development of everyday life and creative culture in a multicultural environment.