



*The mission of LDA Georgia is to strengthen local democracy and civil society, support democratic reforms in Georgia and to develop new and innovative approaches to local and national challenges, by co-operating with the local and international stakeholders*

*The purpose of this Newsletter is to inform the interested parties about the activities carried out by the organization during December*



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LDA Georgia- ადგილობრივი დემოკრატიის სააგენტო საქართველო

## Meeting with the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the United States of America to Georgia H.E. Kelly C. Degnan



Executive director of LDA Georgia met with the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the United States of America to Georgia H.E. Kelly C. Degnan.

With the mentioned meeting, the Ambassador completed the 2022 tour cycle in our country, which was dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic

relations between Georgia and the United States. Civil society organizations operating in Imereti municipality also attended the meeting. At the meeting, they talked about the needs of the Imereti region and plans to continue cooperation

## Public meeting-"the role of civil society in the implementation of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)"

On December 9, 2022, with the support of the European Union and organized by Imereti Regional Hub - Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia), a public meeting was



held on the topic "the role of civil society in the implementation of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)". The meeting was held at Akaki Tsereteli State University, in Kutaisi.

The meeting was opened by the executive director of the organization, Nino Khukhua. The main principles and goals of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the possibilities of the local OGP program were discussed at the meeting with the invited speakers and the attending public. Speakers invited to the public meeting spoke on the following topics:

Head of the Administrative Service of Kutaisi City Hall, Petre Adamadze - the importance of joining the Open Government Platform (OGP) of Kutaisi municipality;

Doctor of Public Administration; Senior Civil Society Development Expert; European Union project "Support to public administration reform in Georgia", Lasha Gogidze - the goal and main principles of the Open Government Partnership (OGP);

OGP Academy, Tamar Gzirishvili - the role of civil society in the implementation process of Open

Government Partnership (OGP);

Head of the Foreign Relations and International Projects Department of Kutaisi City Hall, Shorena Khukhua - presentation of the 2023-2025 action plan of the Open

Government Partnership (OGP) of Kutaisi municipality. Civil society organizations of Imereti region, representatives of the municipality and young people



attended the meeting.

The goal of the Imereti Regional Hub is to strengthen civil society at the regional level by maintaining the sustainability of civil society organizations, ensuring an increase in the quality of transparency and accountability.

The meeting was held within the framework of the project "Civil Society STAR Initiative", which is supported by the European Union (EU) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

## Training - "Methodology of Identifying Youth Needs and Tools for its Implementation"

With the support of the European Union and organized by Imereti Regional Hub - Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia) and Education Development and Employment Center (EDEC), a training was held of the youth council of Baghdati municipality on the topic -



"methodology of identifying youth needs and tools for its implementation". At the training, the members of the youth council of Baghdati municipality were provided with information about the methods and procedures for identifying the needs of young people and activating their participation. In particular, the training covered the following topics: groups of civil advisors; public hearing; evaluation cards, procedure for preparation of evaluation cards; civil participation and service agencies; advocacy and lobbying. At the end of the training, group work was held - determining the level of participation (of youth (citizens)) using Sherry Arnstein's ladder.



The meeting was held within the framework of the project "Civil Society STAR Initiative", which is supported by the European Union (EU) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

## Seminars of the youth club in Samtredia municipality

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, in the framework of the project "Civil Society STAR Initiative", hold seminars of the youth club in Samtredia municipality.



The speaker - Ketevan Kukhianidze conducted three seminars on the following issues:

- the democratic functions of civil society;
- theories of social capital;
- the relationship between social capital and civil society;
- the e-participation and democracy;

- Opportunities for citizen involvement in the decision-making process;
- the importance and role of civil society;
- civil movements in Eastern Europe ("Czech Story", "Romanian Story").

Seminars included hands-on exercises and small presentations. The aim of this activity is to change the attitudes of young people / students towards civil society and community organizations, to promote volunteering among young people and to increase their interests in the activities of civil society organizations.

The club was established by LDA Georgia within the framework of the project "Civil Society STAR Initiative," with the support of the European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

## The youth club of LDA Georgia has renewed

The youth club of LDA Georgia has renewed its activities with new members! Youth club members were selected based on their experience and motivation.

Nino Khukhua, executive director of LDA Georgia talked about the club's work, past projects, and future plans. Also, participants shared their expectations and motivation for joining. From next year, club members will be actively involved in volunteer activities, trainings and various social campaigns. The youth club was established in 2016. Since 2016, the members of the club have already implemented a number of important projects.



## CSO of Imereti region CRI "Bright Future"



Get to know the organization -CRI "Bright Future", which is a participant in the development support program of the newly created organizations of the Imereti regional hub.

Imereti Regional Hub- LDA Georgia constantly provides consultations and helps newly created civil society organizations in the municipalities of the Imereti region in the direction of management and strategic planning for their further strengthening and success. Strengthening of the newly created organization became possible within the framework of the project "Civil Society STAR Initiative," with the support of the European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

In 2023, the organization will host a  
Peace Corps volunteer

Local Democracy Agency Georgia is accredited as the sender as well as recipient organization of the European Solidarity Corps - ESC (ex EVS) program.

We can select volunteers for short-term and long-term exchange programs and send them abroad to involve in informal educational as well as volunteering activities.

Also, in a similar format, we can host volunteers from other countries and involve them in the activities of our organization. In 2023, the organization will host a Peace Corps volunteer. Together with the organization's team, she/he will be involved in the process of creating and implementing important projects.

