# Local Democracy Agency Georgia Newsletter



The purpose of this Newsletter is to inform the interested parties about the activities carried out by the organization during the last three months

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.



# **AUGUST ACTIVITIES**

# Meetings With The Public Servants In Baghdati, Vani And Terjola Municipalities

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, in the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", held meetings with the public servants who are responsible for relations with civil society organizations in Baghdati, Vani and Terjola municipalities.



The aim of the meetings is to promote the role of civil society in public policy.

The meetings is being organized by LDA Georgia within the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative," with the support of the European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.





# Trainings About Advocacy In Municipalities

Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia) is implementing the project "Increasing the Quality of Citizen Involvement in Local Self-Government" in eleven (11) municipalities of Imereti region (Baghdati, Zestaponi, Samtredia, Vani, Khoni, Tskaltubo, Sachkhere, Chiatura, Kharagauli, Terjola, Tkibuli).

Within the framework of the project, trainings on the specifics of advocacy were conducted for the members of the Citizens' Initiative Group in the target municipalities. The following issues were discussed at the training:

- Three sectors of the state; What is advocacy? Principles of active citizenship;
- Types of Advocacy;
- Basic elements of advocacy;
- Identifying the problem of advocacy, the specifics of advocacy;



It is a dialogue between the community and the government that focuses on the well-being of the community by improving local services.

The project is being implemented with the support of "the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Georgia".



# Consulatations For CSO's In Khoni, Tskaltubo, Zestaponi And Terjola Municipalities

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, within the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", provided consultations to representatives of civil society and community organizations in Khoni, Tskaltubo, Zestaponi and Terjola municipalities.

### At the meeting:

- was presented the results of the research conducted by the organization, which related to the challenges and needs faced by civil and community organizations as a result of COVID 19;
- was provided consultations on management issues of the organization in order to strengthen them;
- was given the information about the grant competitions announced in Imereti region.



Similar meetings will be held in the municipalities of Imereti region. The meetings was being organized by LDA Georgia within the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", with the support of the European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

# Seminars For Youth Club Members

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, in the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", established a youth club. The members of the youth club were selected through a competition based on their interests and motivation.

The speaker - Nodar Jikia conducted three seminars on the importance and role of civil society and volunteerism, and shared with young people the practical experience which has been accumulated over the years.



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 Initiative," with the support of the European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.



# Agro Tours For Youth Entrepreneurs In Baghdati And Vani Municipalities

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, in the framework of the project "Joint Organization to Unite Rural Networks of Entrepreneurial Youth - JOURNEY", organized an Agrotours for members of the Youth Entrepreneurial Club in the farms of successful entrepreneurs / farmers in Baghdati and Vanimunicipalities.

As part of the Agrotour, the young people visited Mindia Kavtaradze Farm, Blueberry plantations and Baia Abuladze Cellar, where they received practical advice from entrepreneurs and got acquainted with the technologies of greenhouse, farm start-up and maintenance, vine care and wine production.





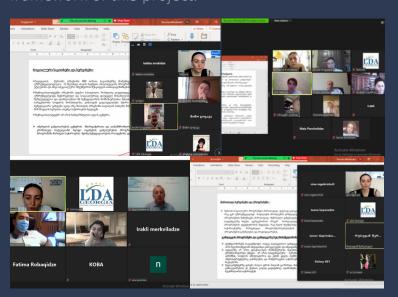


Local Democracy Agency Georgia, together with its partners: Kutaisi Municipality City Hall, st. Vinnytsia Regional Development Agency (Ukraine), Association of Local Democracy Agencies (France), Ganja (Azerbaijan), Forma Azione (Italy), Lodz Marshall Office (Poland), Implementing the European Commission-funded Erasmus+ project JOURNEY - Joint Organization to Unite Rural Networks of Entrepreneurial Youth".

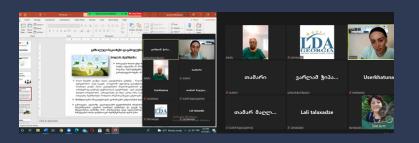
# SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

### **Round Table Format Meetings**

Within the framework of the project "Increasing the Quality of Citizen Involvement in Local Self-Government", Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia) a round table format meeting was held online in Baghdati, Kharagauli, Chiatura, Tskaltubo and Tkibuli municipalities. The meeting was attended by representatives of local self-government as well as members of the initiative groups, who were specially created within the framework of this project



Through the project team and the initiative group, the problems identified in the specific municipalities were presented to the municipalities as a result of the research. Effective ways to solve problems were also discussed at the meeting. The project is being implemented with the support of "the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Georgia".



# **Entrepreneur Capacity Building Workshop**

Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia), within the framework of the project "Joint Organization to Unite Rural Networks of Entrepreneurial Youth - JOURNEY" has finished entrepreneurship capacity building seminar for young people living in the municipalities of Imereti region. The mentors shared the Polish and Italian experience gained during the project. In addition, the conversation focused on the current tax legislation and the legal environment for entrepreneurs, the development of a business idea (startup development, pitching), also the business model principles of Canvas.

The project is funded by the European Commission.



Follow the link for more information: shorturl.at/vMUX9

## Video About Racha-Lechkhumi And Kvemo Svaneti Entrepreneurship -Investment Regional Forum.

Local Democracy Agency Georgia presented a video about Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Entrepreneurship - Investment Regional Forum. The video was prepared within the framework of the grant "Racha-Lechkhumi and lower Svaneti Regional Development Initiative" which was undertaken within UNDP "Fostering Regional and Local Development-Phase 2" project, with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and the Georgian Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI).

USE THE LINK TO SEE THE VIDEO

(m)



https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=VHKhOCGtsGY

# Initiative To Reduce The 1% Threshold For Petitioners

Within the framework of the project "Increasing the Quality of Citizen Involvement in Local Self-Government", Local Democracy Agency Georgia appealed to Imereti Municipal Councils to reduce the minimum 1% threshold for petition voters, since the majority of citizens face a significant barrier in the process of submitting a petition - the problem of mobilizing the minimum number of citizens defined by law.

The initiative was positively assessed by Samtredia, Baghdati, Khoni, Tskaltubo, Chiatura and Sachkhere municipalities. The result was a reduction of the standard 1% threshold for registered voters to 0.5%. Consequently, the voters of these municipalities have the opportunity to easily ensure the mobilization of 0.5% of registered voters, collect signatures and submit a joint petition.



# **Training On The Specifics Of Advocacy For CSOs In The Target Municipalities**

Within the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", LDA Georgia conducted training on the specifics of advocacy for the members of CSOs in the target municipalities. The following issues were discussed at the training:

- Three sectors of the state, Principles of active citizenship, What is advocacy?;
- Types of Advocacy;
- Basic elements of advocacy;
- Identifying the problem of advocacy, the specifics of advocacy;



# Training Platform For Young Entrepreneurs

The website of the #JOURNEY project www.journeyeplus.eu has been launched, a universal training platform for young people, which aims to increase entrepreneurial potential and raise awareness about entrepreneurial education among young people.

The site operates in four languages (Georgian, Azerbaijani, English, Ukrainian). The platform is adapted to mobile devices/tablets.

This platform hosts online training courses with video content, developed by experts from Italy, Poland, and France. The platform includes Young Entrepreneurs' Clubs, which aim to raise awareness of entrepreneurship education and create a network of young people to share knowledge and best practices, also to get information on self-employment opportunities, various online training courses and the experience of ELL countries

experience of EU countries.
Training platform
JOURNEY

Online courses, master classes and a lot of useful communication for young entrepreneurs

What would you like to learn?

# Follow the link for more information:

shorturl.at/acstT

## Consultations For CSO's In Vani And Sachkhere Municipalities

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, within the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", provided consultations to representatives of civil society and community organizations in Vani and Sachkhere municipalities. At the meeting:

- was presented the results of the research conducted by the organization, which related to the challenges and needs faced by civil and community organizations as a result of COVID 19:
- was provided consultations on management issues of the organization in order to strengthen them;
- was given the information about the grant competitions announced in Imereti region.
- Similar meetings will be held in the municipalities of Imereti region.

The meetings was being organized by LDA Georgia within the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", with the support of the European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.



### **Seminars For Youth**

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, in the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", established a youth club. The members of the youth club were selected through a competition based on their interests and motivation. The speaker - Ana Shalikiani conducted a seminar on the importance and role of civil society, reviewed the civil society origin history and strengthened the principles of active citizenship through practical exercises.



### **A Round Table Format Meeting**

Within the framework of the project ""Increasing the Quality of Citizen Involvement in Local Self-Government", a round table format meeting was held in Terjola, Sachkhere, Samtredia, Vani, Zestaponi and Khoni municipalities. The meeting was attended by representatives of local self-government as well as members of the initiative groups, who were specially created within the framework of this project.



Through the project team and the initiative group, identified problems in the specific municipalities were presented to the municipalities as a result of the research. Effective ways to solve problems were also discussed at the meeting. The project is being implemented with the support of "the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Georgia".

# Meeting With The Public Servants In Khoni Municipality

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, in the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", held meeting with the public servants who are responsible for relations with civil society organizations in Khoni municipality. The aim of the meetings is to promote the role of civil society in public policy.

The similar meetings are planned in all municipalities of Imereti region.

The meetings is being organized by LDA Georgia within the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative," with the support of the European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.



# October activities

### **SMS PLATFORM**

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, in the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", has launched an SMS platform. The purpose of the SMS platform is the timely awareness of civil society and community organizations, the activity of interest groups and the introduction of a system for delaying messages of group groups.



The service is offered by Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia) within the framework of "Civil Society STAR Initiative: CSOs as Sustainable, Transparent, Accountable and Resilient Development Actors in Georgia", funded by the European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

The project is implemented by a consortium led by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), with the following NGOs: The Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSRDG), the Civil Society Initiative (CSI), the Consultation and Training Center (CTC), the Education Development and Employment Center (EDEC) and the Institute for European Politics (IEP).

### Consultations For CSO's In Tkibul Municipality

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, within the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", provided consultations to representatives of civil society and community organizations in Tkibuli municipality. At the meeting:

- was presented the results of the research conducted by the organization, which related to the challenges and needs faced by civil and community organizations as a result of COVID 19.
- was provided consultations on management issues of the organization in order to strengthen them;
- was given the information about the grant competitions announced in Imereti region.



Similar meetings will be held in the municipalities of Imereti region.

The meetings is being organized by LDA Georgia within the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", with the support of the European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

### **SEMINARS FOR YOUTH CLUB**

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, in the framework of the project "Civil Society Initiative", Hold another meeting of the youth club. The members of the youth club were selected through a competition based on their interests and motivation. The speaker - Ana Shalikiani conducted a seminar on the importance and role of civil society, reviewed the activities of civil society organizations and the achieved results. The workshop included hands-on exercises and small film screening with discussion.





Follow the link for more information: shorturl.at/ablCV

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- shorturl.at/lnqD8

