

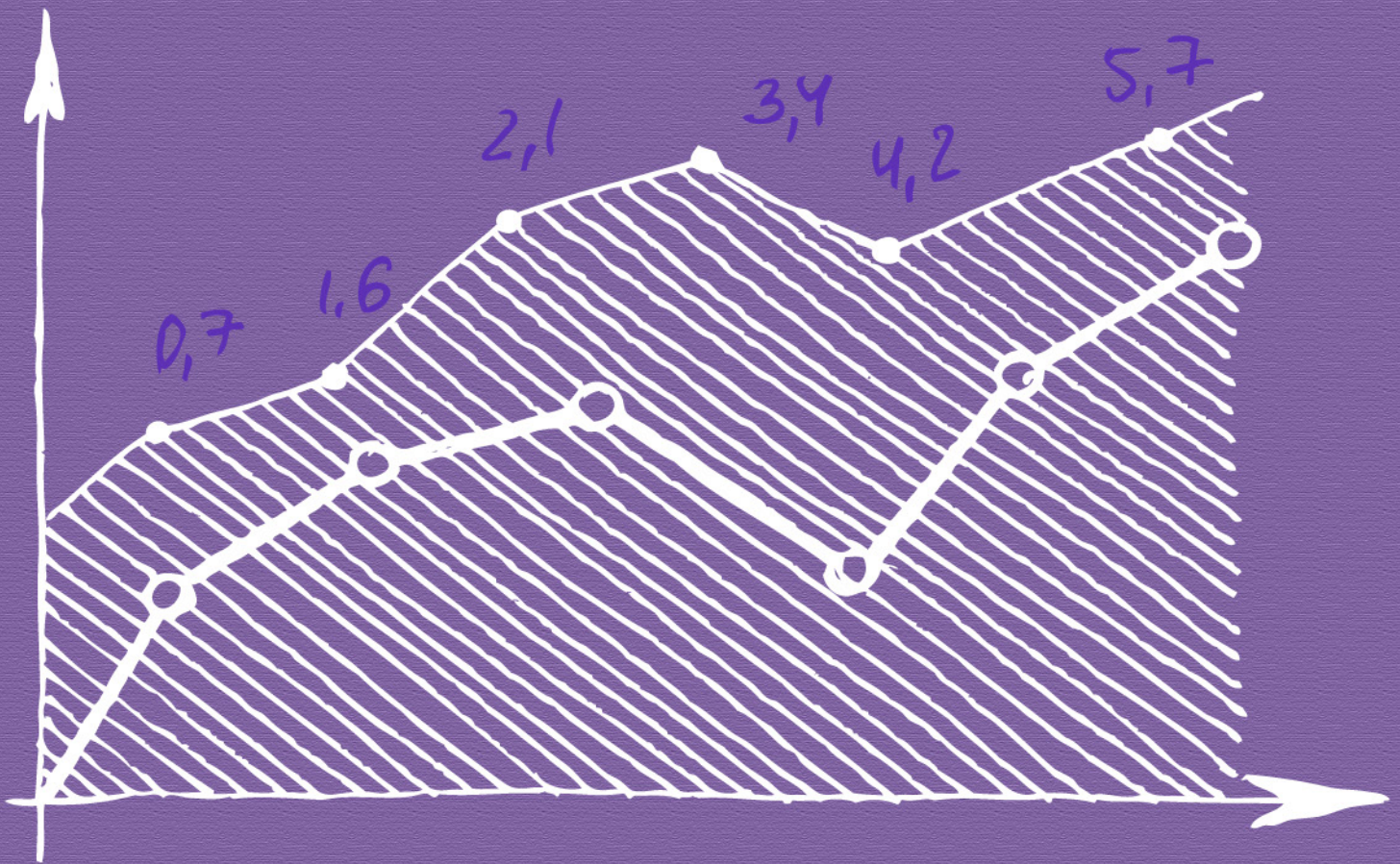


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EQUALITY, CIVIC AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Action Plan 2021-2022 of the State Strategy for Civic
Equality and Integration 2021-2030
Monitoring Report



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Action Plan 2021-2022 of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration 2021-2030 Monitoring Report

This Monitoring Report has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Georgian Democracy Initiative (GDI) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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Tbilisi, 2023

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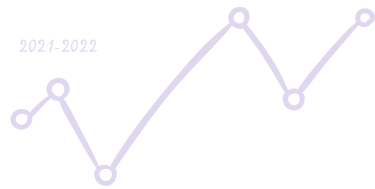
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INTRODUCTION AND MAIN FINDINGS

In accordance with the tenets outlined in the 2021-2030 State Strategy for Civil Equality and Integration, the Government of Georgia, under the auspices and coordination of the Office of the State Minister of Reconciliation and Civil Equality, has formulated an Action Plan for 2021 - 2022. The Action Plan delineates five strategic priorities, including Equality, Civic and Political Participation of ethnic minorities.

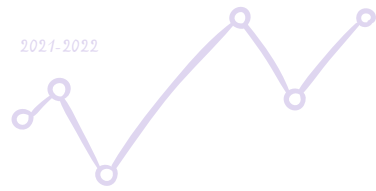
The third strategic priority is disaggregated into three distinct goals: (1) improving participation at all levels of civic, political, and public governance, (2) improving access to media and information, and (3) Strengthening environment based on equality. The strategic priority includes 6 goals and 29 activities.

To oversee the execution of the Action Plan devised for the promotion of equality and the enhancement of civic and political participation among ethnic minorities, and to assess the government's policies in specific domains, the Georgian Democracy Initiative (GDI) conducted an in-depth examination of the plan's third chapter. This comprehensive analysis evaluated the pertinence, efficacy, and prioritization of goals and activities outlined within this chapter, aligning them with the overarching strategic priorities delineated. Each prescribed activity and objective within the Action Plan underwent both quantitative and qualitative assessments in relation to the designated goals.

Given the inherent difficulty in monitoring a substantial portion of the activities outlined in the Action Plan using publicly accessible sources, the monitoring report relies predominantly on information furnished by the entities entrusted with executing the activities. Furthermore, insights from the reports emanating from the office of the Georgian State Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality contribute significantly to the assessment. Consequently, the evaluation of activities within the Action Plan primarily adopts a quantitative approach, with less emphasis placed on the qualitative impact of the activities. It is noteworthy that the assessment of activity performance adheres closely to the deadlines stipulated in the action plan.

MAIN FINDINGS:

- *To enhance the involvement of individuals from ethnic minorities across various echelons of civil, political, and public administration, a series of training sessions were administered to civil servants within self-governing entities, particularly in regions characterized by a significant ethnic minority presence. Notably, despite the specified objective in the aforementioned chapter, there was an absence of planned activities aimed at augmenting or refining representation within central and local electoral bodies. The training initiatives primarily centered on elevating the competencies of officials within town halls and councils situated in regions densely populated by ethnic minority communities;*
- *To facilitate the meaningful exercise of electoral rights, the Central Election Commission of Georgia (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") undertook the translation of numerous documents, instructions, flyers, and videos into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Furthermore, educational programs and an information campaign were conducted. Regrettably, the Commission encountered challenges in collecting comprehensive data during the campaign, significantly impeding the assessment of its effectiveness. Specifically, the available information does not allow for a precise determination of the approximate number of individuals who received election-related information, particularly among representatives of ethnic minority groups;*
- *Efforts to enhance access to media and information have predominantly centered on sustaining the existing state rather than implementing substantive improvements. Furthermore, the absence*



of state-level statistics on the representation of ethnic minorities across diverse public structures poses a particular challenge, impeding the in-depth examination of the needs of these groups and the formulation of targeted remedial measures;

- *The publication of Armenian and Azerbaijani newspapers, namely "Vrastan" and "Gurjistan," persisted, complemented by the broadcast of 4-9 minute segments on the public broadcaster and the backing of a new video portal offering content in seven languages. While these media endeavors represent significant projects aimed at informing ethnic minorities, it remains imperative for the state to undertake more effective measures in presenting the realities and interests of these minorities, fostering a greater diversity of available media products. Unfortunately, the Public Broadcaster exhibited a more subdued response to the needs of ethnic minority representatives in 2021 compared to its more active engagement in 2019;*
- *Emphasis should also be placed on the pivotal role of local media. As part of the Action Plan, support was extended to the bilingual newspaper "Bolnisi", primarily disseminating information in the Georgian language, notwithstanding the fact that 63.4% of the newspaper's target audience comprises Georgian Azerbaijanis;*
- *Several initiatives were implemented to elevate civic awareness on human rights, civil equality, integration policies, and matters pertaining to anti-discrimination and gender equality. These activities primarily centered on themes such as gender equality, early marriage, domestic violence, human rights for ethnic minorities, European integration, as well as public services and public policy;*
- *An information campaign and training sessions were executed, accompanied by the creation of media products and the establishment of meeting resource centers specifically tailored for women and young people. Additionally, training programs were provided to representatives of state structures to enhance their capacity in responding more effectively to crimes committed against members of ethnic minorities;*
- *Regrettably, the undertaken activities predominantly serve the purpose of informing representatives of ethnic minorities and are less oriented towards fostering civic awareness within the broader society.*

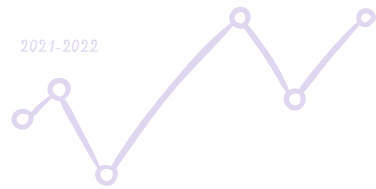
METHODOLOGY

The monitoring process primarily focused on evaluating the pertinence, efficacy, and prioritization of objectives set forth within the specific priority -"Equality, Civic and Political Participation" of the Action Plan.

In the initial phase, an equitable allocation was assigned to each activity associated with a particular goal. For instance, if a objective encompassed five activities, each was attributed an equal share of the provisional total (e.g., 20% each out of a total of 100%). This standardized methodology was consistently applied in the assessment of both activities and objectives within the overarching strategic priority.

Activity implementation status

It is noteworthy that the assessment of activities extended beyond narrative evaluations; a numerical score (out of 100) and a corresponding performance status were assigned to gauge the effectiveness of each activity. Utilizing predefined indicators, distinct performance statuses were established to comprehensively evaluate each activity:



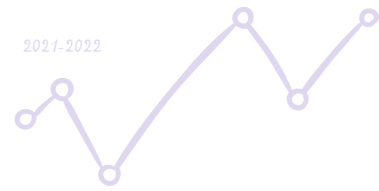
1. The activity envisaged by the Action Plan is **fully completed** – the given status could be granted to the activity in case when the activity has been fully or almost fully implemented. Out of 100, such activities could be assessed by the scores from 91 to 100.

2. The activity envisaged by the Action Plan is **mostly completed** and only the small part remains to be completed – the given status could be granted to the activity in case when the main part of the activity has been implemented, but it has not been fully completed. Out of 100, such activity could be assessed by the scores from 51 to 90.

3. The activity envisaged by the Action Plan is **mostly uncompleted** and the most part remains to be completed – the given status could be granted to the activity in case when the small part of the activity has been implemented and the most part remains to be completed. Out of 100, such activity could be assessed by the scores from 0 to 51.

4. The activity envisaged by the Action Plan **is not implemented** – the given status could be granted to the activity in case when the activity has not been implemented at all or only the insignificant small part has been completed. Out of 100, such activities could be assessed by the score 0.

Employing the aforementioned evaluation system, which considers the assigned weight to each activity, objective and goal, the progress in each instance was computed for both activities and their associated objectives and goals.



GOAL 5: IMPROVING PARTICIPATION AT ALL LEVELS OF CIVIC, POLITICAL AND PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

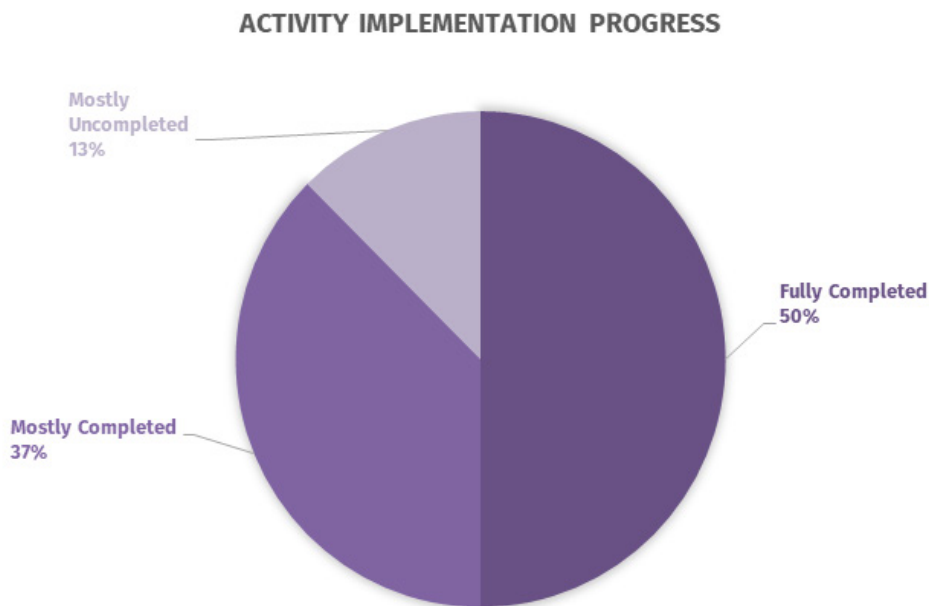
The goal comprises 2 distinct objectives and encompasses a total of 8 activities, wherein:

Fully Completed: 4

Mostly Completed: 3

Mostly Uncompleted: 1

Goal progress: 89% (Mostly Completed)

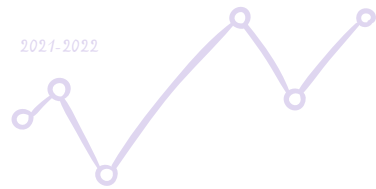


The fifth chapter (Strategic Priority) of the Action Plan is dedicated to Improving participation at all levels of civic, political and public governance. To achieve this objective, two specific objectives were delineated: (1) Supporting the engagement of ethnic minority representatives in government and self-government activities and (2) Developing mechanisms for effective realization of active and passive electoral rights of ethnic minorities;

To accomplish these tasks, the primary strategy involved the planning and execution of training sessions, courses, and educational programs. Additionally, a key initiative was the translation of pertinent documents and videos into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. While certain activities may not have been executed in their entirety, the implemented actions, in some instances, represented a positive stride toward fostering the engagement of representatives of ethnic minorities in public life.

Several training sessions were conducted for officials in self-governing bodies within regions densely populated by representatives of ethnic minorities. These sessions addressed the development of professional skills essential for effective public administration, along with principles encompassing transparency, accountability, and pertinent topics related to NATO and the European Union.

The "Public Servant Integration Program" was formulated, encompassing components related to public management, administration, and the instruction and assimilation of the state language. Although these initiatives were consolidated under a single activity, the State Administration School



named after Zurab Zhvania demonstrated a commendable level of transparency. In most instances, comprehensive information regarding the developed programs and participant selection criteria, including factors such as proficiency in the state language, participants' employment locations, geographical considerations, and other criteria, was diligently provided. Details about the trainers, course duration, working language, participant numbers (including ethnicity in some cases), career development of participants, and planned activities were also made available. The responsible agency meticulously processed information at every stage of the activity, significantly streamlining the evaluation process.

The Central Election Commission of Georgia (referred to as "CEC") undertook the translation of certain information videos and informational flyers into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Unfortunately, the CEC did not generate data that would allow us to estimate the reach of information dissemination during the mentioned campaign. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that election documentation, including the „ballot“, „unified list of voters“, and the “instructions for filling out the ballot”, as well as “guidelines for election commission members, were fully translated.

The information campaign "We speak to voters" included a series of 297 meetings, out of which 13 specifically targeted representatives of ethnic minorities. Flyers were distributed at these meetings and in 26 branches of the House of Justice. Additionally, information about the activities of the election administration and two municipal bodies concerning the October elections was disseminated through local television and print media.

Several educational programs were conducted, encompassing both theoretical information and practical exercises to enhance public awareness about the election process.

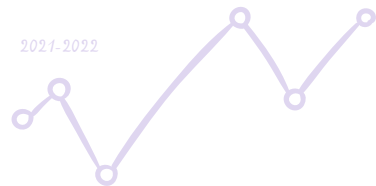
As of 2021, the training course "in the election law" had not been implemented, despite its stipulated deadline in the second quarter of 2022. According to information from the CEC, this activity was implemented in 2022; however, detailed information about the specifics of the activity is not currently available to the organization.

It is noteworthy that an indicator of the objective's (Supporting the engagement of ethnic minority representatives in government and self-government activities) impact was the number of ethnic minority public servants in central and local electoral bodies. As of 2017-2020, the representation of ethnic minorities in the Parliament stood at 4%. However, according to the 2021 report, this indicator further declined to 3.5%.¹ Notably, the efforts to improve these statistics were predominantly focused on a singular activity - ensuring trainings for the representatives of selfgovernment bodies in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities. Regrettably, this initiative exhibited limited relevance to the overarching goal of augmenting representation at the central level. While the strategic importance of involving representatives of ethnic minorities is acknowledged, the conducted trainings for civil servants in regions densely populated by representatives of ethnic minorities are not specifically tailored to their ethnicity. These trainings primarily take place in Georgian and focus on enhancing professional language proficiency and skills. Recognizing the challenge² of finding personnel in regions with a significant ethnic minority presence who are proficient in the state language, it becomes imperative to incentivize and promote the acquisition of the state language among civil servants representing ethnic minorities.

Moreover, the action plan only contemplates the 1+4 internship program as a means of attracting new personnel, which is insufficient to address the existing problem comprehensively.

1 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.24 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

2 Evaluating the involvement of ethnic minorities in public service. PMCG Research. Pg.18, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3uiBjXo>



2021-2022

Objective 5.1. Supporting the engagement of ethnic minority representatives in government and self-government activities

The objective comprises only 1 activity, which is fully completed.

Objective Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

Activity 5.1.1: Ensuring trainings for the representatives of selfgovernment bodies in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia LEPL Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration	50 employees of self-government bodies received training in professional skills	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration has successfully implemented several projects within the specified activity.

According to the annual report on the implementation of the 2021 action plan, the State Administration School trained a total of 75 officials, with 41 of them being representatives of ethnic minorities. Additionally, 40 officials participated in the project focused on “developing capacities and raising awareness about public administration reform in local self-governing units densely populated by national minorities”. Within the framework of basic programs for the professional development of civil servants, 10 individuals underwent training, while an additional 25 participated in supplementary programs. There were plans to develop and implement a specialized course tailored to the needs of civil servants representing ethnic minorities. This course aimed to address both language proficiency in the state language and competencies in public governance and administration.³ Among the initiatives, there was a plan to develop a training methodology and materials infused with the requisite terminology essential for the activities of civil servants in self-governing bodies.⁴

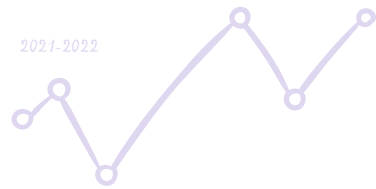
It's noteworthy that GDI requested detailed information about each project, and the State Administration School distinguished itself by providing comprehensive and detailed answers to all the queries, a practice that set it apart from other organizations.

During the implementation of educational courses, the school formulated criteria⁵ for selecting participants within the framework of each project, aligning them with the specific goals of the project. These criteria included considerations such as geographical and gender representation, proficiency in the Georgian language, and the practical experience of the candidates. In some instances, the representation of ethnic/national minorities was also taken into account as a relevant criterion.

3 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021 – 2022 Action Plan. Pg.24 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

4 Ibid. Pg.25.

5 The response letter of LEPL Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration MES 3/23/0000248892, Annex N1, 01.03.2023.



Under the umbrella of the first project, a total of 75 officials underwent training, with 41 of them representing Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Greek nationalities. Throughout the training period, these individuals were employed in various capacities, including roles in the municipality's mayor's office, the city council, the association of kindergartens, and the coordination institute of preschool education and methodology. Positions held by the trained individuals encompassed division and department heads, specialists, mayor's assistants, kindergarten association directors, and psychologists.⁶

The basic program for the professional development of civil servants comprised nine thematic training courses:

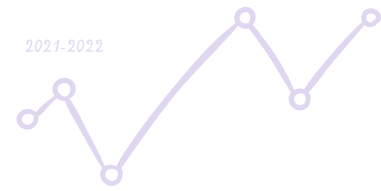
- *Managerial skills of the employee: 2 participants*
- *Development of personal and professional competencies: 8 participants*
- *Internal audit in public administration: 3 participants*
- *Management of infrastructural projects of civil buildings: 5 participants*
- *Spatial territorial development of the municipality: 5 participants*
- *Municipal purchases: 2 participants*
- *Municipal property management: 2 participants*
- *Administrative supervision and fines: 5 participants*
- *Municipal permits and fees: 3 participants.*

At the time of their retraining, the participants were employed in various capacities within the City Hall and City Council of the municipality, holding positions as heads and specialists in different divisions and departments.

In the project "Developing capacities and raising awareness about public administration reform in local self-governing units densely populated by national minorities," supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), four groups of ten individuals each were trained on the following topics:

- *Initial course of sectoral language;*
- *Public policy planning and coordination;*
- *Public administration;*
- *Open Government Partnership;*
- *Transparency;*
- *Citizen involvement;*
- *Accountability;*

6 Ibid.



- *Disinformation;*
- *NATO;*
- *European Union;*

A training module was designed for the beneficiaries to comprehend professional literature better, to simplify the understanding, define field terminology, and apply it in a specific context. Regrettably, the school did not furnish the mentioned training material. However, based on the provided information, the training material included a trainer's guide, a handout for trainees, presentations addressing specific issues, adapted texts and dialogues, selected listening audio material, and more.

Participants were selected from 8 municipalities that are densely populated by national minorities (Akhalkalaki, Gardabani, Lagodekhi, Ninotsminda, Marneuli, Akhaltsikhe, Tsalka, and Bolnisi). The selection process involved testing and interviews, and each municipality nominated five candidates. The selected individuals held various positions in the mayor's office and city council of the target municipalities, including heads of various divisions and departments, specialists, mayor's assistants, directors of kindergarden associations, and psychologists.

Two of the individuals who underwent training have since been promoted to higher positions.

The "Public Servant Integration Program" was formulated to encompass public management and administration, as well as the teaching and integration of the official language. However, the project was executed in three stages spanning 2022-2023. Notably, within the framework of the program, 26 civil servants in Imereti Governorate and City Halls of the municipalities, including employees from Ninotsminda, Dmanisi, and Gardabani municipalities, as well as other municipal institutions, underwent training. The project incorporated practical courses, cultural events, thematic workshops, excursions, exhibitions, film screenings, and various other activities.

This activity was initially scheduled to conclude at the end of 2022; however, the State Administration School successfully completed the majority of the projects in 2021. Moreover, the training topics were crucial for enhancing state services in regions densely populated by representatives of ethnic minorities. Unfortunately, the lack of information collection by state structures regarding the ethnic affiliation of civil servants poses a challenge in assessing the involvement of representatives of ethnic minorities in the processes of governance and self-government.⁷ The State Administration School did not provide an explanation on how the ethnicity of a person was determined, despite the participation of at least 41 individuals from Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Greek minority backgrounds in the projects. Nevertheless, the national language teaching and integration program is regarded as a positive step toward enhancing the qualifications of representatives from ethnic minorities and increasing their engagement in state structures.

Objective 5.2: Developing mechanisms for effective realization of active and passive electoral rights of ethnic minorities

The objective comprises a total of 7 activities, wherein:

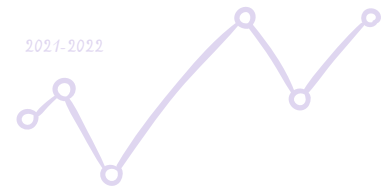
Fully Completed: 3

Mostly Completed: 3

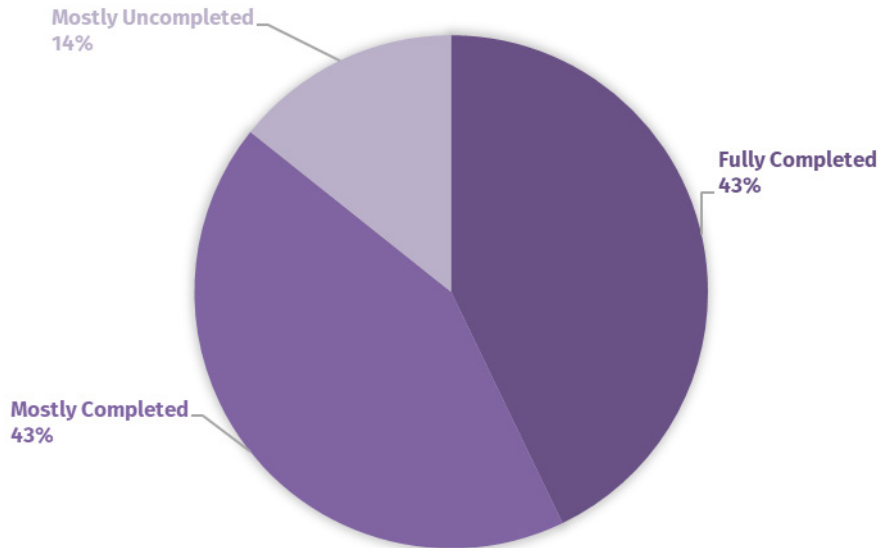
Mostly Uncompleted: 1

Objective Progress: 78, 5% (Mostly Completed)

⁷ Evaluating the involvement of ethnic minorities in public service. PMCG Research. Pg.5, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3uiBjXo>



ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



Activity 5.2.1.1. Preparation of information video clips in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages by the Central Election Commission

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Central Election Commission	100% of video clips are translated in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages; Video clips are covered at least by 2 Armenian language and 2 Azerbaijani-language TV companies/ radios; video clips are aired in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages	2021 4th quarter

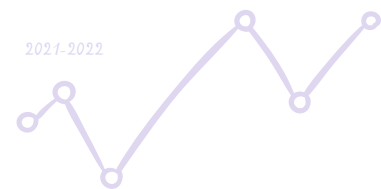
Status and Activity Progress: 90% (Mostly Completed)

According to the 2021 report, the Central Election Commission (CEC) prepared and disseminated news videos in the Armenian and Azerbaijani languages through various media channels.⁸

The mentioned video clips are currently available on the official website of the Central Election Commission (CEC), on Facebook, and on the YouTube channel.⁹ These videos cover a range of topics, including:

⁸ Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021-2022 Action Plan. Pg.25 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

⁹ Available at: <https://bit.ly/3soii5n>



- *CEC offers various services to persons with disabilities;*
- *Services for ethnic minorities;*
- *Information about the summary protocol;*
- *Vote counting and recounting procedures;*
- *Information regarding the electronic program for submitting complaints;*
- *Information for voters in self-isolation;*
- *Voting procedures;*
- *Come to the elections on October 2! Participation in elections is safe!;*
- *All civil servants are obliged to follow the rules established for them by the pre-election campaign law;*
- *Verify yourself in the unified list of voters.*

It is worth noting that the Central Election Commission (CEC) also produced video clips in the Georgian language, although nine of them were not translated into other minority languages.¹⁰

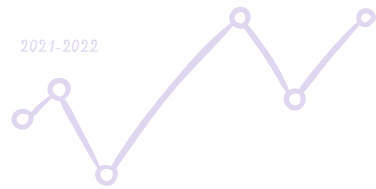
- *Voting procedures (II round);*
- *Come to the elections on October 30! Participation in elections is safe!;*
- *The second round of elections will be held in Krtsanis electoral district using electronic technologies;*
- *A pilot project of electronic vote counting will be implemented in 31 precincts of Krtsanis electoral district;*
- *On October 30, the second round of municipal body elections will be held;*
- *Information for voters in self-isolation;*
- *Come to the elections on October 2!*
- *We hold elections together;*
- *All civil servants are obliged to follow the rules established for them by the pre-election campaign law;*

The mentioned video clips primarily focus on the second round of the elections and were published in the month of October (the second round aimed to select 20 mayors and 42 majoritarian members).¹¹

The last three videos pertain to the first round of the elections. Simultaneously, two videos contain

¹⁰ Available at: <https://bit.ly/474RGp7>

¹¹ The second round was not held in any region densely populated by representatives of ethnic minorities. Available at: <https://bit.ly/40vSf80>



crucial information for voters about the recruitment process of the Central Election Commission (CEC) and the obligations of civil servants.

Even though the mentioned videos were produced during the municipal body elections on October 2, 2021, it is crucial to grasp the purpose of these informative videos. They were created to promote the realization of the rights of voters representing ethnic minorities and should be consistently available and easily accessible for interested individuals.

Given that the videos are posted on the official websites of the Central Election Commission (CEC), it can be presumed that the election administration is cognizant of the ongoing relevance of the created media products. Therefore, it becomes imperative to assess the accessibility and availability of these videos for interested individuals.

The video clips in all three languages were collectively posted on the CEC website in 2022, although they had been available on the organization's YouTube channel since September 2021. Some videos are also shared on the official Facebook page of the CEC, garnering views ranging from 1,000 to 100,000, but these are exclusively in Georgian. Notably, a video titled "The CEC offers a lot of services to voters of ethnic minorities" was posted in the Georgian language on the CEC's Facebook page and received only 1.5 K views. Unfortunately, CEC videos in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages are not shared on the Facebook page.

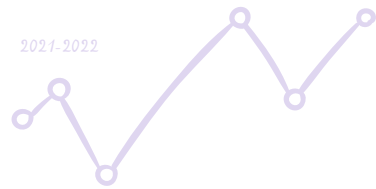
Moreover, the videos are searchable only by Georgian name. Given that the official website of the CEC is available in Georgian, Abkhaz, and English versions, it becomes challenging to locate the mentioned videos, contributing to difficulties in access and discoverability.

The translated videos were disseminated through the following media channels:

- *Armenian-speaking: Parvana-TV, ATV-12;*
- *Azerbaijani-speaking: Marneuli TV, Kvemo Kartli, Bolneli TV, AG-TV, TV-4;*
- *Armenian-language radio: Nori, Vrastan-FM;*
- *Azerbaijani language radio: Marneuli, Bolneli AG-FM.*

However, the Central Election Commission (CEC) could not provide information regarding the viewership statistics for the mentioned videos on each online platform and media outlet.¹² Additionally, details about which specific videos were presented and their frequency on the mentioned media were not provided.

The activity implementation status - 90% (Mostly Completed) was assigned because, only 10 out of 13 relevant Georgian-language videos were translated, as well as the placement of 2 videos each in Armenian and Azerbaijani language media outlets. The videos were also shared on the official pages of the Central Election Commission (CEC) for interested individuals. However, the challenge remains that these videos are difficult to find for non-Georgian speaking ethnic minority representatives.



Activity 5.2.1.2. Translation of election documents and other information materials in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Central Election Commission	3 types of election documentation, about 10 different sorts of information materials, and instructions for Election Commission members have been translated	2021 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 85% (Mostly Completed)

According to the information provided by the Central Election Commission (CEC), three types of election documents were translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages:

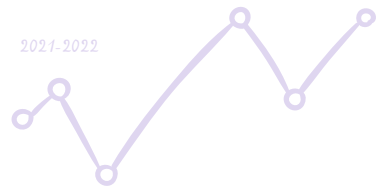
- *Election ballot;*
- *Unified list of voters (desktop and wall-mounted versions);*
- *Rules for filling out the ballot;*

Four types of information flyers, covering the following topics:

- *About elections of municipality bodies;*
- *On verification of data in the list of voters;*
- *About voting procedures;*
- *CEC Chairman's written appeal to young people;*

The translated information materials (flyers) mentioned earlier were distributed as part of the "We speak to Voters" information campaign.

1. Flyers covering topics such as the right to vote, secrecy of voting, voter registration, and communication channels available between the election administration and citizens were printed in the following circulation: In Georgian: 65,000 copies, in Armenian: 750 copies, in Azerbaijani: 1,200 copies.
2. About verification of data in the list of voters - 65,000 copies in Georgian, 750 copies in Armenian, 1,200 copies in Azerbaijani;
3. Voting procedures - 1,151,200 copies in Georgian, 24,550 copies in Armenian, 95,800 copies in Azerbaijani;
4. CEC Chairman's address to young voters - those who participate in elections for the first time



- 38,330 copies in Georgian, 920 copies in Armenian, 3,160 copies in Azerbaijani.¹³

According to the 2014 Population Census¹⁴ produced by the National Statistics Office of Georgia, "GeoStat", 86.8% of the population, equivalent to 3.22 million people, are ethnic Georgians. The remaining 13% comprises 6.3% (233,000 individuals) ethnically Azerbaijani and 4.5% (168,100 individuals) ethnically Armenian.

If we exclude other ethnic groups from these indicators, the distribution of Georgian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani citizens is as follows:

- Georgian: 88.9%
- Azerbaijani: 6.4%
- Armenian: 4.6%

Based on the provided information, the following data can be produced:

	GEORGIAN	AZERBAIJANI	ARMENIAN
Distribution of Population	88.9%	6.4%	4.6%
Distribution of the first flyer among ethnic groups	97%	1.7%	1%
Distribution of the second flyer among ethnic groups	97%	1.7%	1%
Distribution of the third flyer among ethnic groups	90.5%	7.5%	1.9%
Distribution of the fourth flyer among ethnic groups	90%	7.5%	2.1%

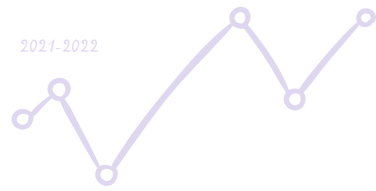
Indeed, based on the information provided, there is a notable discrepancy between the circulation of flyers in each language and the percentage distribution of ethnic groups in the population. Additionally, it seems there is a discrepancy in the number of informative flyers produced, with only 4 being printed instead of the expected 10.

It should be noted that the following materials have been translated in Azerbaijani and Armenian language for the precinct election commission members:

- *the guidelines for the precinct election commission members;*

¹³ Information campaign "We speak to Voters". Report of 2021-2022, Central Election Commission of Georgia, Center for Development, Reforms and Training of Election Systems.

¹⁴ Final results of the 2014 Population Census, National Statistics Office of Georgia. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3GtNqDT>



- commemorative instruction of the precinct election commission chairman;
- the responsibilities of the precinct election commission secretary on election day;
- the duties of the voter flow regulating commission member;
- the roles of the voter registrar commission member;
- functions of a member of the committee supervising the ballot box and special envelopes;
- Functions of the member of the commission taking the portable ballot box;
- Training module for members of the Precinct Election Commission;
- Election security;
- Poster depicting the sealing of electoral documents;
- Instruction for the members of the district and precinct election commissions on promoting the independent participation of voters with disabilities in the elections.¹⁵

The instructions play a crucial role in enhancing citizens' participation in elections and fostering confidence in the members of the Precinct Election Commission.

The activity implementation status - 85% (Mostly Completed) was assigned because, 3 types of election documents and instructions for members of the Precinct Election Commission have been translated. However, there has been limited attention to the dissemination of information about the translation of these documents and its availability to interested persons. Additionally, only 4 informational flyers were translated, and the principles guiding the selection and printing of each flyer remain unclear.

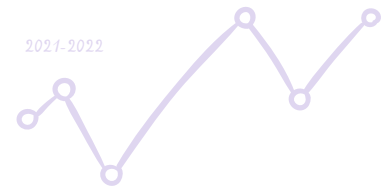
Activity 5.2.1.3. Carry out information campaign "We speak to voters"

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Central Election Commission	Around 40 meetings held in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities, including at least 3 meetings with numerically smaller ethnic groups	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 50% (Mostly Incomplete)

Several activities were conducted as part of the "We speak to Voters" campaign, including the distribution of the mentioned flyers, organizing meetings in public gathering places, and having

15 The materials can be found at the official web page of the Central Elections Commission. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3OuzSwp>



representatives of district election commissions speak in various media outlets.¹⁶

The precinct election commissions distributed the translated information materials (flyers) based on the place of registration. Additionally, in collaboration with the House of Justice, flyers were distributed in 26 out of 28 branches throughout the country. However, evaluating the effectiveness of these flyers in reaching the public with information about the elections is challenging. While the circulation of flyers is low, providing information to voters based on their place of registration is considered a more effective communication method than merely posting flyers in state structures. It's worth noting that the number of meetings held in villages inhabited by ethnic minorities was limited, totaling 13.

The campaign was carried out in two stages. During the first stage, representatives of the election administration, along with volunteers, engaged with voters in public gathering places, providing information about the right to vote and the upcoming municipal elections.

In the second stage, information campaigns were conducted in public gathering places, providing participants with the opportunity to verify their personal and family members' data in the voter list. A total of 297 meetings were organized, with only 13 of these meetings taking place in villages inhabited by ethnic minorities. Specifically, 6 meetings were held with Azerbaijani-speaking voters, 5 meetings with Armenian-speaking voters, and 2 meetings with small ethnic groups (Omalo, Duisi).¹⁷ The occurrence of only 11 out of 297 meetings in areas densely populated by representatives of ethnic minorities is notably low, especially considering there are 13 municipalities with such populations in the country.

Similar meetings were conducted again in 2022, totaling 151 meetings. However, only 12 meetings took place in regions densely populated by ethnic minorities, with the District Election Commission of Akhmet organizing 2 meetings specifically with small ethnic groups in the villages of Omalo and Duisi.¹⁸

Out of 37 media appearances, representatives of the district election commissions discussed the activities of the election administration and the October 2 elections for municipal bodies in 14 instances. These discussions took place in various media outlets, including Marneuli TV, the online publication "Gazeti Bolnisi," and Gurjaani TV. Additionally, information about voting procedures was disseminated through the Armenian-language newspaper "Vrastan" and the Azerbaijani-language newspaper "Gurjistan."

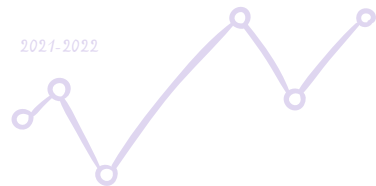
Operators fluent in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages, employed in the contact-hub of the Central Election Commission (CEC), offered users information on election-related matters for the municipal bodies' elections.

The activity implementation status - 50% (Mostly Incompleted) was assigned because, while several meetings were conducted within the campaign, the number of meetings with representatives of ethnic minorities remains notably low. Instead of the planned 40 meetings, only 25 were held. Similarly, instead of 3 meetings with small ethnic groups, 4 were conducted, albeit in the same villages. Additionally, the distribution of flyers and representatives of the district election commissions speaking about the election administration's activities and the October 2 municipal elections in the media were part of the campaign but were not considered in the activity indicator. It's important to note that distributing

16 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021-2022 Action Plan. Pg.25 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

17 Information campaign "We speak to Voters". Report of 2021, Central Election Commission of Georgia, Center for Development, Reforms and Training of Election Systems.

18 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021 - 2022 Action Plan. Pg.28 Tbilisi, 2023. Available at: <https://bit.ly/40Nljrt>



flyers during physical meetings is generally a more effective method of disseminating information to the public compared to placing flyers in government service delivery institutions.

Activity 5.2.1.4. Organizing implementation of educational program "School of Electoral Development" in 4 municipalities densely populated by ethnic minorities

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Central Election Commission	Educational program was conducted in Akhmeta, Akhaltsikhe, Marneuli and Gardabani municipalities ; about 50 youngsters (aged 18-25) have participated	2022 3rd quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 25% (Mostly Incomplete)

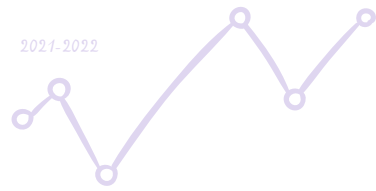
The target group for the project comprised Georgian citizens aged 18 to 25. Participants were selected based on the following criteria: proficiency in the Georgian language, experience related to elections, and expressed interest in this field (preferred). Notably, the selection process did not consider the geographical criterion.

The project was conducted in two formats—online and in physical space. Twenty individuals (14 women, 6 men) participated in the online project, while 121 participants (78 women and 43 men) received certificates for the physical space sessions held in Tbilisi and 18 municipalities. However, the Central Election Commission (CEC) did not request information about the distribution of participants between Tbilisi and other municipalities. Consequently, it is challenging to determine the specific number of young people who participated from the municipalities of Akhmeta, Akhaltsikhe, Marneuli, and Gardabani.

During the first meeting, 5 trainers conducted training, while in the second phase of the project – 38 trainers. The persons employed in some structural units of the CEC office, as well as the chairmen, deputy chairmen, secretaries and members of various district election commissions were selected as trainers.

According to the curriculum used in the Electoral Development School, the project covered various topics, including:

- *the electoral cycle;*
- *the institutional arrangement of the state;*
- *different forms of government;*
- *forms of direct democracy (such as the essence and purpose of elections, referendums, plebiscites);*
- *legislative regulation of elections encompassing both general and electoral legislative frameworks, and electoral principles;*

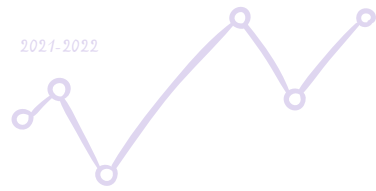


- *international organizations: observation and election assistance;*
- *history and statistics of elections in Georgia;*
- *election systems in Georgia;*
- *electronic means of voting;*
- *election administration models;*
- *election administration of Georgia;*
- *parties involved in elections - Introduction to the role and activities, transparency and publicity of the parties involved in elections (election administration, parties/election entities, observation organizations, media, voters);*
- *inclusiveness of the election environment - election promotion of various vulnerable groups (disabled voters, representatives of ethnic minorities, young voters);*
- *educational projects;*
- *gender equality;*
- *voter registration;*
- *pre-election period, trust, research and elections;*
- *disinformation and dissemination of false information during the election period;*
- *opening of the polling station;*
- *voting procedures;*
- *closing of the polling station;*
- *summary of voting results;*
- *election disputes;*
- *summary of the elections;*
- *overview of the election cycle.*

The curriculum encompasses a multitude of pragmatic exercises, including a simulated electoral voting procedure, coupled with orientation on utilizing online resources and mastering their functionalities.

The implementation status of this activity, as outlined in the annual report on the execution of the 2021 action plan, indicates full completion.¹⁹ In contrast to other courses, the Central Election Commission

¹⁹ Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.25 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>



(CEC) has not furnished us with the materials generated within the "Electoral Development School." Such materials would ideally detail the specific municipalities, facilitators, frequency, and participant count for each training session.

The activity implementation status - 25% (Mostly Incompleted) was assigned because in the consolidated status report on the monitoring of the 2021-2022 action plan notes that in 2022, the program was executed in merely eight cities. This roster included Akhaltsikhe, a city significantly populated by ethnic minorities. Within this context, the training course witnessed 21 applicants registering with the commission. However, the course's culmination saw the participation of only 9 individuals who successfully completed the program and received certification.

Activity 5.2.1.5. Organizing implementation of educational program "Elections and Young Voters" in 13 municipalities densely populated by ethnic minorities

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Central Election Commission	Educational program was conducted in Sagarejo, Akhmeta, Lagodekhi , Telavi, Gardabani, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tsalka, Tetrtskharo, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities; about 300 -11-12th grade schoolchildren have participated	2021 2nd quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

The program took place in 24 public schools across 13 municipalities, engaging a total of 406 students from XI-XII classes. Of these participants, 233 (57%) were women, and 173 (43%) were men. A total of 96 meetings were held. Despite the noted discrepancy between the number of participants in the letter²⁰ and the attached schedule,²¹ the latter indicates the involvement of 473 individuals (267 women, 206 men). In specific municipalities like Dmanisi, Bolnisi, Akhalkalaki, and Akhaltsikhe, the male participants outnumbered their female counterparts, while in other instances, the majority consisted of women. In all cases, the number of students surpassed 300.

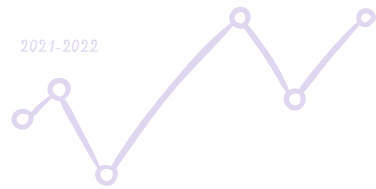
The objective of the training course was to foster the development of electoral literacy among students.

A course comprising four training sessions was conducted in two schools each from Marneuli, Gardabani, Tetrtskaro, Dmanisi, Bolnisi, Tsalki, Sagarejo, Telavi, Lagodekhi, Akhmet, Akhaltsikhi, Akhalkalaki, and Ninotsminda municipalities. Each municipality had a different program leader. As per the details provided, the pool of trainers was recruited through open competitions, including individuals from district election commissions trained as trainers or employees of the CEC office.

The training sessions addressed various topics, including electoral state bodies and the history of elections in Georgia, principles governing elections, the organization of the election process by the

20 The response letter of the Central Elections Commission of Georgia. 236-03-07-2-202302251652, №03-07/236, 25.02.2023.

21 The response letter of the Central Elections Commission of Georgia. 236-03-07-2-202302251652, №03-07/236, 25.02.2023. Annex 5.



Georgian election administration, voter participation in elections, and the role and legal status of parties involved in the election process. The curriculum encompassed both theoretical content and practical examples, along with the execution of exercises.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

Activity 5.2.1.6. Organizing implementation of educational program "Election Administrator Training Courses" in 13 densely populated regions with ethnic minorities

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Central Election Commission and Training Center	Program was conducted in Sagarejo, Akhmeta, Lagodekhi , Telavi, Gardabani, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tsalka, Tetrtskaro, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities; Sagarejo, Akhmeta, Lagodekhi ,Telavi, Gardabani, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tsalka, Tetrtskaro, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities; 1000 beneficiaries have participated	2021 3rd quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

The "Election Administrator Courses" project was implemented in various municipalities, including Sagarejo, Akhmet, Lagodekhi, Telavi, Gardabani, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tsalki, Tetrtskaro, Akhaltsikhi, Akhalkalaki, and Ninotsminda.

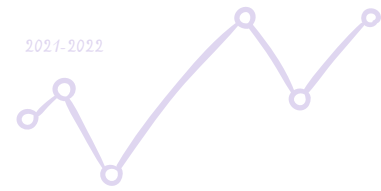
The participants were selected based on criteria such as experience working in the election administration, participating in elections as an observer, possessing a certificate of an election administration official, and/or having a certificate confirming participation in informational and educational programs conducted by the Central Election Commission (CEC) and the training center. Citizens could register either remotely, in electronic form, or in person at district election commissions.

The objective of the training course was to enhance civic awareness about elections and to identify and cultivate qualified potential personnel resources for the election administration.

The course comprised a 3-day session, covering both theoretical content and practical exercises. The sessions addressed topics such as the structure of the election administration, guiding principles for precinct election commission members, commission activities before election day, activities on election day, and the protection of voters' personal data.

A total of 420 training sessions were conducted, with each of the 140 groups receiving three sessions. The distribution of the groups across municipalities was as follows:

1. Sagarejo - 10 groups;
2. Lagodekhi - 7 groups;
3. Telavi - 11 groups;



4. Akhmeta - 6 groups;
5. Gardabani - 12 groups;
6. Marneuli - 23 groups;
7. Bolnisi - 12 groups;
8. Dmanisi - 10 groups;
9. Tsalka - 9 groups;
10. Tetrtskaro - 8 groups;
11. Akhaltsikhe - 11 groups;
12. Akhalkalaki - 14 groups;
13. Ninotsminda - 7 groups.

The program had a total of 1665 participants, with 1185 women and 547 men taking part.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

Activity 5.2.1.7. Conducting training course on "Electoral law" for Samtskhe-Javakheti State University (Akhalsikhe) students

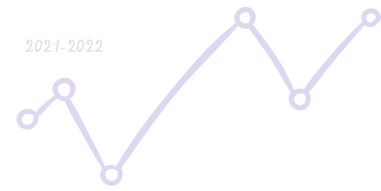
RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Central Election Commission and Training Center	Around 20 students have participated in the training course	2022 2nd quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

The activity involved conducting a training course in "Electoral Law" at Samtskhe-Javakheti State University. The project was implemented in nine universities, and 69 students participated. However, the specific number of participants from Samtskhe-Javakheti State University is not provided.²² According to the consolidated status report monitoring the implementation of the 2021-2022 action plan of the 2021-2030 state strategy for civil equality and integration, students from Akhaltsikhe were remotely involved in this process.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

²² Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021 - 2022 Action Plan. Pg.28 Tbilisi, 2023. Available at: <https://bit.ly/40Nljrt>



GOAL 6: IMPROVING ACCESS TO MEDIA AND INFORMATION

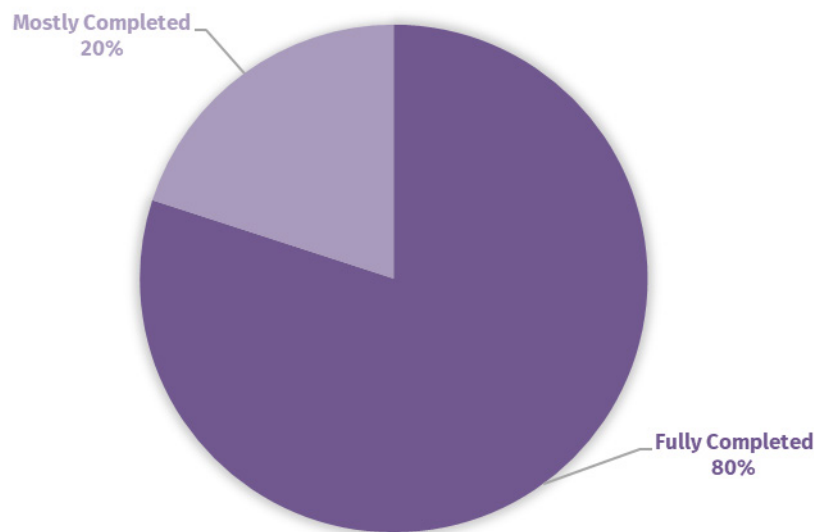
The goal comprises 2 distinct objectives and encompasses a total of 5 activities, wherein:

Fully Completed: 4

Mostly Completed: 1

Objective Progress: 97.5% (Fully Completed)

ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

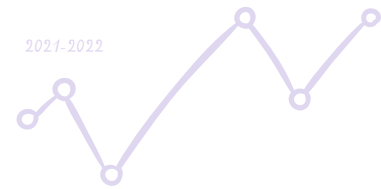


The sixth chapter of the action plan concerns the improvement of access to media and information for representatives of ethnic minorities. To achieve this goal, 2 objectives were set - (1) Improving the quality of media products in ethnic minority languages and (2) Supporting the development of media literacy: through the creation of print and broadcast media in minority languages and the dissemination of information about disinformation.

While a significant portion of the planned activities was implemented, unfortunately, the projects were predominantly geared toward sustaining the current situation rather than fostering increased involvement of ethnic minorities in the media and information space. Given this context, despite the measures implemented, the inclusion of ethnic minorities has not substantially improved.

For instance, the publication of Armenian and Azerbaijani newspapers, namely "Vrastan" and "Gurjistan," whose editorial teams have been consistently operating for 30 years and regularly release news, persists. Moreover, these newspapers are distributed to various penitentiary institutions across Georgia. It is noteworthy that Georgian legislation does not include provisions for the production of statistics on accused/convicted individuals based on ethnic minorities or those belonging to ethnic minorities unable to communicate in the Georgian language.²³ Consequently, determining the circulation of Armenian and Azerbaijani language newspapers in penitentiary institutions becomes challenging. Another intriguing observation is the absence of newspaper distribution in institution No. 12 (semi-open and closed prison, Rustavi) in 2021, which changed in 2022. Additionally, in 2022, there was a decrease of 1220 newspapers distributed in penitentiary institutions compared to the

23 The response letter of Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Special Penitentiary Service, KA010171531329823, №70595/01, 15.03.2023.



data from 2021.²⁴

The broadcasting of the public broadcaster in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages persists, albeit with a reduction in the number of available media products compared to 2019. The duration of the videos ranges from 4 to 9 minutes, which may not offer comprehensive information to the public. Notably, there is a scarcity of non-informative videos in these languages.

The video portal, operating in seven languages, consistently shares information about current events in the country and globally. Additionally, the newspaper "Bolnis," while traditionally focused on local awareness and existing for several years, incorporated a segment in Azerbaijani language in 2020. It's noteworthy that in the 8-page newspaper, only 1 page is dedicated to information in Azerbaijani. Bolnisi, where 63.4% of the population is ethnically Azerbaijani,²⁵ sees information in Georgian only on the newspaper's Facebook page.

Broadcasting channels in the languages of ethnic minorities continue to be available in penitentiary institutions in seven foreign languages.

Several projects, including meetings and seminars, aimed at developing media literacy were implemented. However, the information suggests that a significant portion of the meetings focused on familiarizing participants with the activities of government structures rather than specifically addressing awareness about disinformation.

Given the circumstances outlined above, it's challenging to discern significant involvement of representatives of ethnic minorities in the media and information space.

Objective 6.1. Supporting the development of media literacy

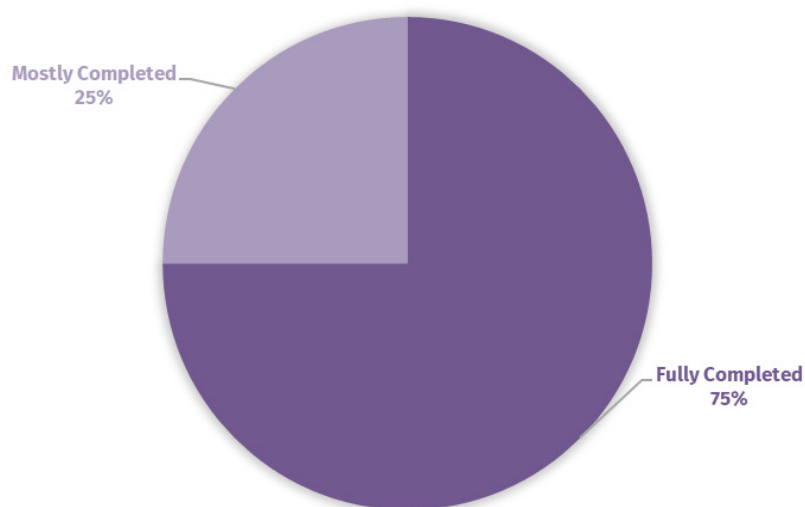
The objective comprises 4 activities, wherein:

Fully Completed: 3

Mostly Completed: 1

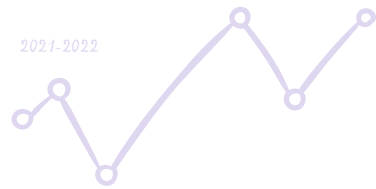
Objective Progress: 95% (Fully Completed)

ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



24 The response letter of Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Center for Vocational Training and Retraining of Convicts. KA010137180165623, №01/264, 06.04.2023.

25 Critical Analysis of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration, Social Justice Center. Available at: <https://bit.ly/4a87SYm>



Activity 6.1.1.1. Providing ethnic minority convicts with non-Georgian language print media

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
LEPL- Center for Vocational Training and Retraining of Convicts	At least 800 issues delivered	2022, 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

According to the annual report on the implementation of the 2021 - 2022 action plan for the state strategy on civil equality and integration, a total of 3,720 newspapers were distributed to penitentiary institutions in Georgia during the mentioned period. Among these, 1,885 newspapers were in the Azerbaijani language, and 1,835 were in the Armenian language.²⁶

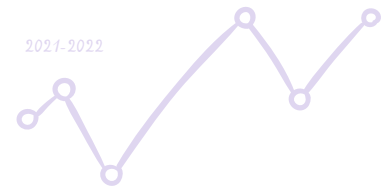
Newspapers "Gurjistan" and "Vrastan" were distributed to 12 penitentiary institutions:²⁷

- N2 Institution (Kutaisi) - Detention and closed-type detention facility;
- N3 Institution (Batumi) - Detention and high-risk detention facility;
- N5 Institution (Gardabani Municipality, village Mtsdziri) - Special detention facility for women;
- N6 Institution (Gardabani Municipality, village Mtsdziri) - Detention and high-risk detention facility;
- N8 Institution (Tbilisi) - Detention and closed-type detention facility;
- N10 Institution (Mtskheta Municipality, Daba Ksani) - Detention and closed-type detention facility;
- N11 Institution (Tbilisi) - Juvenile rehabilitation facility;
- N14 Institution (Tskaltubo, village Geguti, Vartsikhe settlement) - Semi-open and closed-type detention facility;
- N15 Institution (Mtskheta Municipality, Daba Ksani) - Semi-open and closed-type detention facility;
- N16 Institution (Rustavi) - Detention facility for low risk convicts and for their release preparation;
- N17 Institution (Rustavi) - Semi-open and closed-type detention facility;
- N18 Institution (Tbilisi) - Medical facility for accused persons and convicts;

In 2021, there was no distribution of newspapers in institution No. 12 (a semi-open and closed-type detention facility in Rustavi). It is noteworthy that starting from 2022, newspapers in both languages

26 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.26 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

27 The response letter of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, the Center for Vocational Training and Retraining of Convicts, KA010137180165623, №01/264, 06.04.2023.



was provided to this institution in equal amounts, with 50 copies each.

The highest number of newspaper copies was allocated to institution No. 5, a special facility for women in Gardabani municipality, with 300 copies distributed in both Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Institutions No. 16 and No. 8 in Rustavi and Tbilisi received 250 copies each in both languages, and a similar quantity of newspapers was provided to institution No. 14 in Tskaltubo.

An equal distribution of 50-50 copies in each language was made to a tuberculosis treatment and rehabilitation center, a juvenile rehabilitation facility, and a semi-open and closed prison. However, due to the lack of ethnic registration data for individuals in penitentiary institutions, it is challenging to ascertain how well the supply aligns with demand.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

Activity 6.1.1.2. Providing penitentiary institutions with broadcasting in ethnic minority languages

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Special Penitentiary Service	At least 22 broadcasting channels are available in 6 languages in penitentiary institutions	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

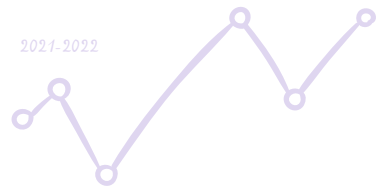
In alignment with the baseline situation of 2020, 22 television channels continue to be broadcast in penitentiary institutions, featuring content in six foreign languages: Russian, English, Turkish, Azerbaijani, Armenian, and Arabic. The objective is to sustain this existing state.

As of 2021, the data indicates that the number of TV channels remains at 22, with the addition of Ukrainian language channels.²⁸ However, specific information regarding the television channels has not been provided by the public agency.

An accused/convict or a group of accused/convicts situated in a penitentiary institution holds the right to acquire a personal radio receiver and/or television from a store within the institution's premises, provided that their usage adheres to the regulations of the institution and does not disrupt the peace of other convicts.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

²⁸ The response letter of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Special Penitentiary Service, KA010171531329823, №70595/01, 15.03.2023.



Activity 6.1.1.3. Preparing electronic/print media products in ethnic minority languages

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Bolnisi Municipal Mayor's Office	Bilingual programs of local TV companies are broadcasted on regular basis; local newspaper "Bolnisi" in Azerbaijani language is published per month (circulation- 400 issues)	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 80% (Mostly Completed)

The agency tasked with implementing the activity is the City Hall/Council of the Municipality of Bolnisi. However, the report on the action plan's implementation predominantly focuses on the initiatives carried out by the Public Broadcaster.²⁹

The effort to enhance the access to media and information includes the ongoing broadcast of the "Moambe" news program with audio tracks in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Additionally, the seven-language web portal, www.1tv.ge, remains operational.³⁰

The "Moambe" news program, featuring Armenian and Azerbaijani soundtracks, is intended to be broadcast five times a day (12:00 pm, 15:00 pm, 18:00 pm, 20:00 pm, and 21:00 pm). However, due to its duration of 4-9 minutes, typically only the first four broadcasts are aired. It is noteworthy that in previous years, particularly in 2019, the Public Broadcaster was more actively involved in translating information. Information and entertainment programs in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages are still accessible on the official website, including content tailored for Azerbaijani and Armenian-speaking audiences.³¹

In addition, despite the fact that the web-portal - 1tv.ge operates in seven languages (Georgian, Abkhazian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Ossetian, English, Russian) and the information is updated daily, users who speak non-dominant languages are provided with much less information about current events.

Regarding the publication of the newspaper "Bolnis" to enhance information for the local population, the response from the Office of the Georgian State Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality states that 4,800 copies were published in Azerbaijani and Georgian languages.³² An inquiry was made to the City Hall of Bolnisi Municipality to verify and clarify this information, but there has been no response to the inquiries.

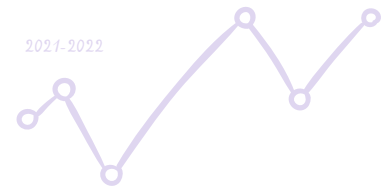
Upon verifying publicly available information, the newspaper "Bolnis" is accessible on the website

29 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.26 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

30 Ibid.

31 Programs published on the official website of the Public Broadcaster in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3ucssXj>

32 The response letter of the Office of the Georgian State Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality. N776-1-2-202305051757, N9776, 05.05.2023.



of the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia.³³ According to the archive, only 11 issues were published in 2021, with the August issue omitted. The newspaper does not specify the circulation of each issue. In 2022, only 7 issues were published, with the May, August, September, October, and November issues being absent.

The newspaper comprises 8 pages, with each copy priced at 1 GEL. Of the 8 pages, 7 are entirely in Georgian, including the front page that outlines the articles featured in the newspaper. Information in Azerbaijani is confined to just 1 page, specifically on the first page of the last sheet. Consequently, it may not be readily apparent that the newspaper contains content in Azerbaijani. Despite being published since 1935, the Azerbaijani language segment was introduced only in 2020. The Azerbaijani-language content primarily consists of translations of 2-4 articles originally published in Georgian within the same newspaper.

Concerning the online presence of the newspaper (gazetibolnisi.ge), information is consistently published in both languages. However, the newspaper's Facebook³⁴ page and YouTube³⁵ channel operate exclusively in Georgian. In 2021, the "Bolnis" newspaper's Facebook page witnessed increased activity, with new information being posted daily, albeit solely in the Georgian language.

The activity implementation status - 80% (Mostly Completed) was assigned because the newspaper "Bolnis" was not published in all 24 months, and its bilingual nature, particularly the Azerbaijani segment, is not prominently visible, with only one page dedicated to Azerbaijani language content. Moreover, the Facebook page exclusively operates in Georgian. Although the Public Broadcaster consistently delivers news in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages, the diversity of media products has significantly decreased compared to 2019. Nonetheless, the web portal continues to provide translations in seven languages.

Activity 6.1.1.4. Publishing non-Georgian language newspapers ("Gurjistan", "Vrastan")

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Editorial of "Gurjistan" and "Vrastan"	At least 8 issues monthly (4 issues of "Gurjistan" and 4 issues of "Vrastan")	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

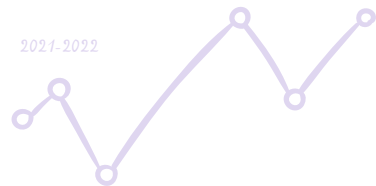
Throughout 2021, the Armenian-language newspaper "Vrastani" saw regular publication with 102 issues, reaching a circulation of 3,500. Simultaneously, the Azerbaijani-language weekly newspaper "Gurjistan" maintained its regularity with 50 issues and a circulation of 4,700. These newspapers were distributed not only in Tbilisi but also in regions densely populated by representatives of ethnic minorities and within penitentiary institutions.³⁶ It is noteworthy that during the reporting period in 2021, 1,885 copies of "Gurjistan" and 1,835 copies of "Vrastan" were distributed to various penitentiary institutions in Georgia. Consequently, 1,665 copies of "Vrastan" and 2,815 copies of "Gurjistan" were made available for sale.

33 National Library of the Parliament of Georgia, newspaper "Bolnis". Available at: <https://bit.ly/3QV9ddx>

34 Official Facebook page of the newspaper "Bolnis". Available at: <https://bit.ly/46dkQRI>

35 Official Facebook page of the newspaper "Bolnis". Available at: <https://bit.ly/40ILZPZ>

36 The response letter of the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality. 776-1-2-202305051757, №776, 05.05.2023.



In 2021, a total of 52 issues of the newspaper „Gürcüstan/Gurjistan/Georgia“ were published. The newspaper maintained a consistent schedule, releasing at least four issues every month, with occasional months (April, May, July, October, and December) featuring five issues. It followed a nearly weekly publication cycle, typically on Fridays. However, due to the unavailability of the electronic version in the archives of the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia, assessing the content posted in the newspaper poses a challenge.

Similarly, when assessing the newspaper "Վրաստան/Vrastani/Georgia", approximately consistent data emerges. In 2021, a total of 51 issues were published, maintaining a minimum of four issues per month. The newspaper adhered to a weekly release schedule, predominantly on Saturdays, with exceptions of five issues in May, July, and October. It's noteworthy that the newspaper is also accessible in electronic format.

Similar to the pattern observed in 2021, both the newspapers "Gurjistan" and "Vrastan" will continue to publish new issues systematically every week in 2022.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

Objective 6.2: Supporting the development of media literacy

The objective comprises only 1 activity, which is fully completed.

Activity 6.2.1.1. Delivering workshops/trainings on disinformation for young people from the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality	2 workshops with the participation of young people from Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions	2022 4th quarter

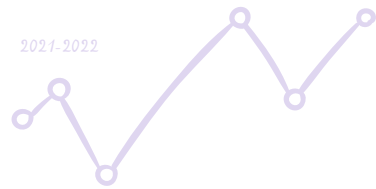
Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

Based on the action plan implementation report, a three-day training session titled "The Impact of Misinformation on the Process of Civil Integration and the Importance of its Prevention" was conducted. Twenty-four teachers of non-Georgian language schools from regions densely populated by representatives of ethnic minorities (Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti, and Kvemo Kartli, as well as Tbilisi) participated in the training.³⁷ The Office of Georgian State Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality reported³⁸ that, in addition to teachers, young people and media representatives also participated in the activity. In 2022, the project was implemented again, and 30 beneficiaries took part in it.

The training was conducted with funding from the European Union project "Human Rights for All" and

37 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.26 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

38 The response letter of the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality. 776-1-2-202305051757, №2776, 05.05.2023.



with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Approximately 90 beneficiaries participated in the information cycle from 2020 to 2022.

Additionally, in June and October 2022, a bilingual campaign on state programs and services took place in the Kvemo Kartli region. The campaign included 40 meetings with the participation of approximately 1500 people.

The meetings were led by the representatives of various public agencies, including:

- *Ministry of IDPs from Occupied Territories of Georgia;*
- *Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Protection;*
- *Ministry of Justice;*
- *Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture;*
- *Ministry of Education and Science;*
- *Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development;*
- *Ministry of Finance;*
- *Legal Assistance Service;*

However, the report does not specify the number of meetings conducted in the Georgian language and the number conducted in the languages of ethnic minorities.

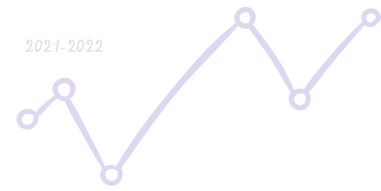
In June, October, November, and December of the same year, four cultural and educational seminars were conducted on the topics concerning the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia. The seminars involved 60 teachers and 60 young individuals from Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, and Kakheti regions, which are densely populated by ethnic minorities. The seminars were facilitated by representatives from various state agencies, community experts, and international partners. However, the report does not provide additional details on the specific topics discussed during the seminars.

A workshop on disinformation for young people should logically cover the nature of disinformation, including fake information, propaganda, and photo/video manipulation. It should also address information verification mechanisms and skills, such as media literacy and critical thinking, as well as the role of fact-checking. Additionally, the workshop should explore how disinformation spreads and emphasize the importance of civic responsibility in combating misinformation. While it may not cover all these aspects comprehensively, it should at least touch upon certain key elements.

Of the mentioned projects, only the first activity is directly associated with disinformation. However, based on the information provided from the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civil Equality, it is challenging to discern a clear link between the government representatives' meetings and the promotion of awareness about disinformation.

Familiarizing the public with the activities of state structures and discussing the matters of European and Euro-Atlantic integration in Georgia contributes to raising awareness and informing the public in regions densely populated by ethnic minorities. However, it is not directly connected to the core aspects of educating the public about disinformation.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)



GOAL 7: STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENT BASED ON EQUALITY

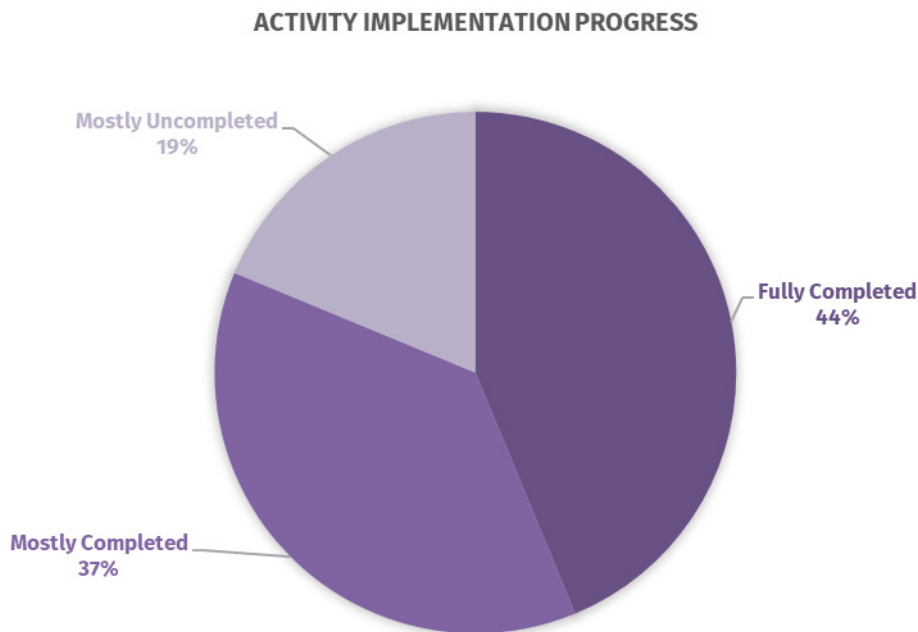
The goal comprises 2 distinct objectives and encompasses a total of 16 activities, wherein:

Fully Completed: 7

Mostly Completed: 6

Mostly Uncompleted: 3

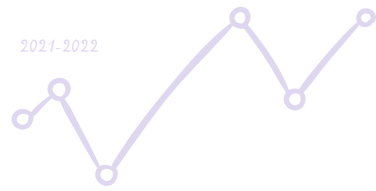
Objective Progress: 71% (Mostly Completed)



The 7th goal of the action plan focuses on fostering an equal and egalitarian environment in society by addressing challenges encountered by ethnic minorities. The objectives and initiatives outlined in this chapter aim to educate ethnic minorities about gender equality, early marriage, and domestic violence. Additionally, the goal is to disseminate information on human rights for ethnic minorities, the European integration process, public services, and the state's policies on civil equality and integration.

In general, the efforts of public institutions carrying out activities under the seventh goal merit positive evaluation. Throughout the reporting period, numerous informational meetings and training sessions were conducted to impart knowledge to representatives of ethnic minorities. Additionally, noteworthy is the dissemination of media products and informative materials created as part of the information campaign on the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia, specifically targeting regions populated by ethnic minorities through social networks. The establishment of meeting resource centers in villages with significant ethnic minority populations is a significant initiative. Creating such spaces is crucial for fostering civic engagement and supporting initiatives related to local issues. It is hoped that the operation of these centers will be cohesive and enable ethnic minorities to implement various civic engagement initiatives.

Throughout the reporting period, training sessions were conducted for representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on crimes motivated by intolerance and discrimination. Additionally, some employees of the Special Penitentiary Service received training on anti-discrimination legislation. Informational



materials regarding the rights of accused/convicted persons were also translated for the benefit of ethnic minorities. The information obtained from the Special Penitentiary Service indicates that accused /convicts who speak Russian, English, Turkish, Persian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani languages, unlike those who speak Georgian, are compelled to approach the administration for information regarding their rights and duties. This disparity may pose an additional obstacle to obtaining information about one's rights, highlighting the need to address and eliminate this practice.

The noteworthy initiative of the LEPL Legislative Herald of Georgia involves translating crucial legislative acts into the native languages of ethnic minorities. This effort aims to enhance access to justice and law enforcement systems for ethnic minorities.

In addition, it is important to highlight that despite our request for public information, no responses were received from the agencies responsible for the activities outlined in the seventh chapter. These practices significantly impeded or rendered impossible our evaluation of the progress of certain activities.

Objective 7.1. Raising public awareness on the issues of human rights, civic equality and integration policy, antidiscrimination and gender equality

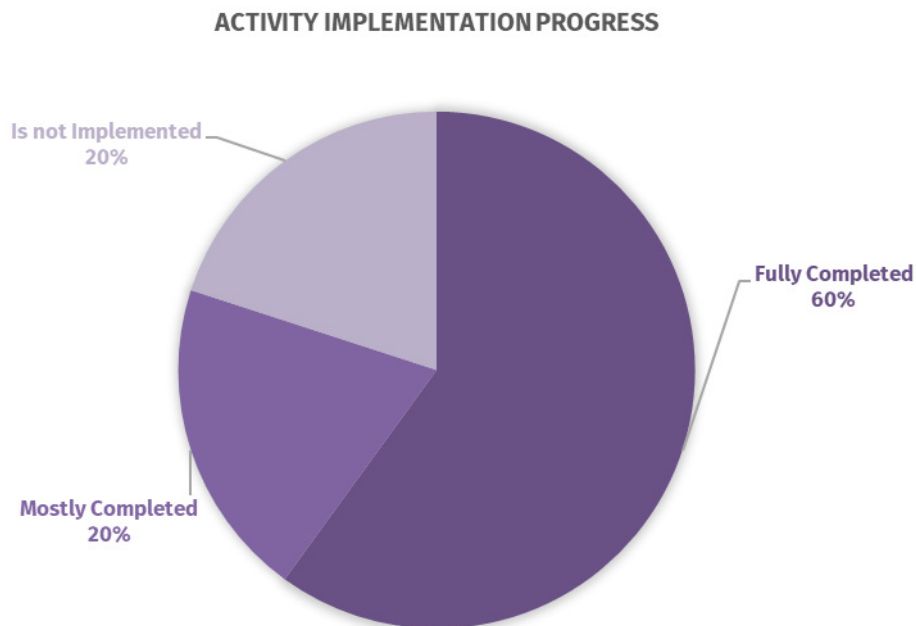
The goal comprises 10 activities, wherein:

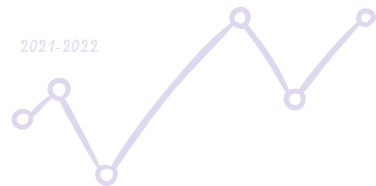
Fully Completed: 6

Mostly Completed: 2

Is not Implemented: 2

Objective Progress: 74% (Mostly Completed)





Activity 7.1.1.1. Conducting information meetings with ethnic minorities on gender equality

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Ministry of Internal Affairs	Minimum 10 meetings held in Samtskhe - Javaketi, Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

The report on monitoring the implementation of the 2021-2022 action plan highlights³⁹ the involvement of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in an information campaign titled "Don't Take Away Childhood." As part of this initiative, the ministry participated in various events in both Tbilisi and the regions of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, and Kakheti, densely populated with representatives of ethnic minorities. The campaign reached more than 1500 people in Kakheti regions. Simultaneously, addressing topics such as gender equality, early marriage, and the prevention of family violence, the mayors of municipalities in Samtskhe-Javakheti conducted information campaigns under the coordination of the State Commissioner's administration. Throughout the year, these campaigns involved approximately 300 meetings, reaching around 1000 beneficiaries in the municipalities of the three regions densely populated by ethnic minorities.

According to the 2022 Action Plan Implementation Monitoring Report, this campaign continued in 2022 as well, and its goal was to raise awareness among schoolchildren about the harmful effects of child marriage, the legal regulations governing these issues, and the role of the state and society in eradicating child marriage.

The 2022 Action Plan Implementation Monitoring Report highlights⁴⁰ the continuation of this campaign into the current year. Its objective remains centered on raising awareness among schoolchildren about the detrimental impact of child marriage, the legal regulations surrounding these issues, and the roles of the state and society in eliminating child marriage.

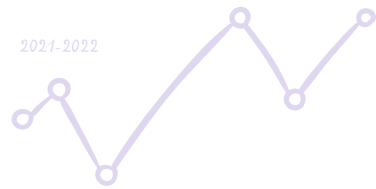
The details outlined in the monitoring reports of the 2021-2022 action plan were corroborated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in their response⁴¹ to the public information provided upon our request.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

39 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.27 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

40 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021 - 2022 Action Plan. Pg.31 Tbilisi, 2023. Available at: <https://bit.ly/40Nljrt>

41 The response letter of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. №32300616578, 02.03.2023.



2021-2022

Activity 7.1.1.2. Organizing meetings within the framework of Women's Rooms in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Kakheti, Samtskhe - Javakheti, and Kvemo Kartli local selfgovernment bodies	Around 15 meetings held in Kakheti region; at least 150 ethnic minority beneficiaries	2022 3rd quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

The monitoring report for the 2021-2022 action plan highlights⁴² that 19 meetings and training sessions were conducted in the municipalities of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, and Kakheti through the "Women's Rooms" initiative, with over 600 participants. Additionally, the 2022 report⁴³ on the action plan implementation mentions approximately 140 meetings held in women's rooms in municipalities densely populated by ethnic minorities. These meetings aimed to promote gender equality, socio-economic and political integration, and increased participation in the decision-making process for representatives of ethnic minorities.

The State Minister's Office provided information⁴⁴ about the meetings and activities conducted within the "Women's Rooms" initiative in 2021-2022. According to their response, these sessions covered various topics such as human rights, gender equality, state and municipal programs, domestic violence, early marriage, and reproductive health. The meetings were well-attended, with hundreds of beneficiaries participating. The efforts of the relevant agencies in implementing these activities are positively evaluated.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

Activity 7.1.1.3. Conducting meetings with rural population, women and youth, also opening resource-centers in Dmanisi municipality

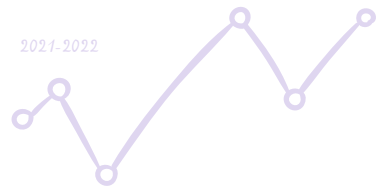
RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Dmanisi and Bolnisi Municipal Mayors' Office	Resource center opened in 2 villages	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

⁴² Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.28 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

⁴³ Ibid. Pg. 31

⁴⁴ The response letter of the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality. №420, 14.03.2023.



2021-2022

The annual report⁴⁵ on the implementation of the 2021-2022 action notes that meeting centers for the population, women, and youth in the villages of Dmanisi municipality were not opened. The report attributes this responsibility to the Gender Council, which no longer functions with its old composition. However, with the formation of the new Gender Council in 2022, there are plans to carry out this activity as defined by the action plan.

In response to our public information request, the Office of the State Minister of Reconciliation and Civil Equality of Georgia provided information⁴⁶ that in 2022, a youth community center was opened in Bolnisi municipality, specifically in Bolnisi, Kazreti Township, and four villages (Zalesi, Kvemo Bolnisi, Kazreti Township, and Nakhiduri). However, details about the functioning of these centers, including whether meetings and activities are held, were not provided by the agency. Despite this, the initiation of the activity is regarded positively.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

Activity 7.1.1.4. Conducting meetings in the frame of annual campaign on violence against women and domestic violence

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Tetritskaro Municipal Mayor's Office	At least 5 meetings held in Tetritskaro municipality within the campaign; 100 beneficiaries	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 0% (Is not Implemented)

The Tetritskaro Municipality approved the "Gender Equality Action Plan" in December 2022. Before the plan's approval, the municipality actively participated in events aimed at preventing violence, gender-based intolerance, and discrimination against women. However, the agency did not provide information on whether the meetings planned within this activity were held or not. This information is not included in the 2021 and 2022 reports monitoring the implementation of the action plan. Therefore, based on the analysis of both the public information received from the agency and the monitoring reports, it remains unclear whether this activity was performed or not.

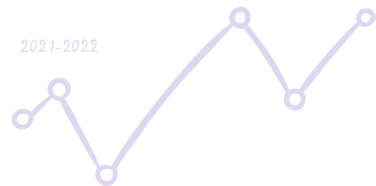
Activity 7.1.1.5. Conducting information meetings on reproductive health

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Tetritskaro Municipal Mayor's Office	5 meetings held in 5 villages of Tetritskaro municipality; 50 beneficiaries have participated	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 0% (Is not Implemented)

45 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.28 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

46 The response letter of the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality. №776, 05.05.2023.



In response to our request for public information, the Tetrtskaro Municipal Mayor's Office did not provide information about the planned meetings. According to the 2021 report⁴⁷ monitoring the implementation of the action plan, it was not possible to hold informational meetings on reproductive health in 2021 due to the existed epidemiological situation in the country. The 2022 report monitoring the implementation of the action plan does not indicate whether the planned meetings were held in 2022 or not. Therefore, based on the analysis of both the public information received from the agency and the 2021 and 2022 reports monitoring the implementation of the action plan, it remains unclear whether this activity was performed or not.

Activity 7.1.1.6 Organizing information meetings to raise awareness on human rights, civic equality and integration policy

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
NNLE Cultural Center of Batumi Municipal Mayor's Office	At least 6 meetings held with ethnic minority representatives attended by 50 beneficiaries	2022 2nd quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

The body responsible for this activity is indicated in the action plan as the NNLE Cultural Center of Batumi Municipal Mayor's Office, from which we did not receive a response to the requested public information about the performance of the activity.

The 2021 report⁴⁸ on monitoring the implementation of the action plan indicates that in the direction of improving awareness of the state policy on human rights, civil equality, and integration, the Office of the State Minister implemented a number of measures during the year, including meetings and consultations held within the framework of the government commission's activities, which were largely related to the elaboration of the policy document. The development of the new document involved up to 25 meetings held both in Tbilisi and in the regions, with the involvement of more than 1000 participants.

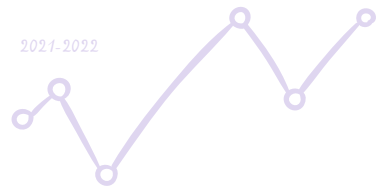
In the 2022 report⁴⁹ on the implementation of the action plan, it is noted that, on the initiative and leadership of the Office of the State Minister, in the regions densely populated by representatives of ethnic minorities, including in villages far from the municipal centers, meetings with the population and information/awareness-raising campaigns in various relevant and priority areas were held intensively. At the same time, the efforts aimed to raise awareness of civil equality and integration policies, involving more than 3000 citizens in over 60 meetings organized by the Office of the State Minister.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

47 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.28 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

48 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.29 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

49 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021 - 2022 Action Plan. Pg.32 Tbilisi, 2023. Available at: <https://bit.ly/40Njrt>



Activity 7.1.1.7 Conducting trainings about protection of human rights and freedoms, among them for ethnic minority representatives

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
LEPL Training Center of Justice of Georgia	At least 3 meetings; minimum 30 beneficiaries	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 70% (Mostly Completed)

In 2022, four training sessions on the topic of "Basic human rights and freedoms" were conducted in the Georgian language, engaging a total of 67 participants.⁵⁰ The breakdown of these sessions is as follows:

- *On November 21, 2022, a training session took place in Akhaltsikhe with 18 participants as part of Equality Week sponsored by the European Council. The training was conducted by a trainer from the legal training department of the training center;*
- *Throughout 2022, three training sessions in the Georgian language were held in Tbilisi, with a total of 49 participants. These sessions were organized within the framework of the training center and law clinic of Tbilisi State University named after Ivane Javakhishvili and were led by a specialist in the field of law.*

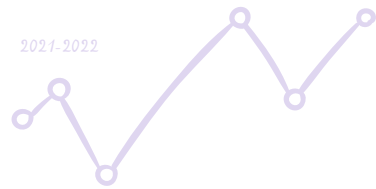
According to the information provided by the agency, the training sessions in 2022 aimed to explore the essence of: human rights, various human rights conventions, the mechanisms for their enforcement, and important decisions of the European Court of Human Rights.

Additionally, the agency conducted the following training sessions in 2022 to enhance legal awareness within society:

- *"Right to equality": Two training sessions in Tbilisi and Gori, involving 37 participants;*
- *"Prevention and response mechanisms of violence in the family and against women": Two training sessions in Tbilisi with 40 participants;*
- *"Social network and related rights": One training session in Tbilisi with 12 participants;*
- *"Labor rights": One training session in Tbilisi with 10 participants.*

The activity implementation status -70% (Mostly Completed) was assigned because, the information provided by the agency does not specify the exact number of ethnic minority representatives who attended the training sessions, nor does it clarify whether the training sessions were conducted in a language understandable to them. Consequently, it remains unclear whether this criterion has been fully satisfied.

⁵⁰ The response letter of the Training Center of Justice of Georgia. N14/114, 10.03.2023



Activity 7.1.1.8. Conducting information meetings on trafficking issues, as well as holding online meetings with ethnic minorities as required

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Ministry of Justice of Georgia	At least 3 meetings, with minimum 50 beneficiaries	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 70% (Mostly Completed)

In 2021-2022, the representative of the agency participated in 10 meetings organized by the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civil Equality in various regions⁵¹ of Georgia, including border villages. During these meetings, information was provided about state services available to victims/alleged victims of violence, including trafficking. The total attendance at these meetings was 342 persons. However, the information provided by the Ministry does not specify how many of the attendee’s represented ethnic minorities.⁵²

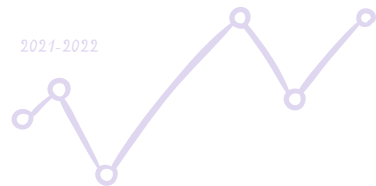
In conjunction with the International Organization of Migration and the Agency, an informative campaign transpired in the villages of the Guria region from April 11 to 15, 2022. During these meetings, diverse subjects were deliberated, encompassing prevalent manifestations of forced labor in Georgia, children's rights, and the pertinent legal framework. In aggregate, 40 individuals participated in the sessions conducted as part of this outreach initiative.

Furthermore, assisted by the International Center for Migration Policy Development, a total of 20,000 informational brochures were crafted in 2022, spanning four languages. The widespread dissemination of these brochures among various target demographics occurred throughout the year. On the whole, the commendable outreach efforts undertaken by the Ministry merit a positive assessment.

The activity implementation status - 70% (Mostly Completed) was assigned because, the execution of this initiative was tied to imparting information regarding the perils of trafficking directly to members of ethnic minorities. Unfortunately, in the case of conducted meetings, it proves challenging to specify whether they align precisely with the predetermined activity indicator.

51 The meetings were held: in the village of Etserfend of the Tsalenjikha municipality, in the villages of Arbo and Jaryashen on the dividing line of Gori municipality, in the village of Rike and Tkai on the dividing line of Zugdidi municipality, in the village of Dirbi on the dividing line of Kareli municipality, in the village of Shamgona on the dividing line of Khashuri municipality, the dividing line of Kaspi municipality in the village of Kodistskaro;

52 The response letter of the Ministry of Justice, №2521. 07.03.2023



Activity 7.1.1.9. Conducting information meetings, trainings and workshops on Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic integration process for ethnic minority representatives

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia LEPL Information Center on NATO and the European Union	60meetings/trainings/workshops, 1500 beneficiaries	2021 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

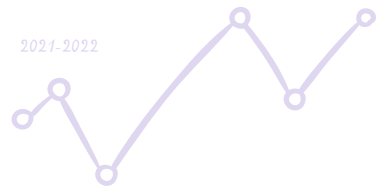
The Ministry of Affairs of Georgia did not provide a response to our request for public information regarding the implementation of this activity.

As outlined in the monitoring report⁵³ of 2021 action plan implementation, informational meetings were conducted on matters concerning the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia. Specifically, around 70 events took place, involving approximately 2100 citizens. In the 2022 report,⁵⁴ it is noted that the Information Center on NATO and the European Union organized approximately 80 events for representatives of ethnic minorities, focusing on the European and Euro-Atlantic integration process of Georgia, with the participation of about 2600 citizens. This number significantly exceeds the figure reported for 2021. During the same period, under the initiative and guidance of the Office of the State Minister, intensive face-to-face meetings with the population in regions densely populated by representatives of ethnic minorities, including villages distant from municipal centers, were conducted. These meetings encompassed information and awareness-raising campaigns on various pertinent issues.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

53 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.29 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

54 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021 - 2022 Action Plan. Pg.32 Tbilisi, 2023. Available at: <https://bit.ly/40Njrt>



2021-2022

Activity 7.1.1.10. Developing/disseminating printed materials and media products on Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and its benefits for ethnic minority population

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia LEPL Information Center on NATO and the European Union	Prepared information and media products (25); information posts (30) will be uploaded in socialmedia. Publishing and dissemination of a guide about NATO and EU in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages (3000 copies); Printed and disseminated brochures about anti-Western propaganda and myths in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages (3000 copies)	2021 4th quarter

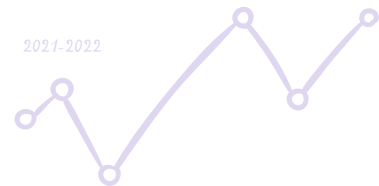
Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

The Ministry of Affairs of Georgia did not provide a response to our request for public information regarding the implementation of this activity.

The 2021 report⁵⁵ on monitoring the implementation of the action plan for the same activity highlights a robust information campaign conducted in the languages of ethnic minorities through social media, consisting of 18 videos and 68 informative posts. Collaboration with three local media outlets was sustained, leading to the creation of 150 content media products. These initiatives resulted in a substantial increase in coverage of the aforementioned topics in regions densely populated by ethnic minorities. Additionally, in 2021, the Information Center developed, translated, and disseminated the following informational materials in the languages of ethnic minorities: the brochure "Myths about NATO and the European Union" (in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages) and the "Guide to NATO and the European Union" (in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages).

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

⁵⁵ Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.29 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>



OBJECTIVE 7.2. IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE MECHANISMS OF JUSTICE AND LAW-ENFORCEMENT, AND QUALITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The objective comprises 6 activities, wherein:

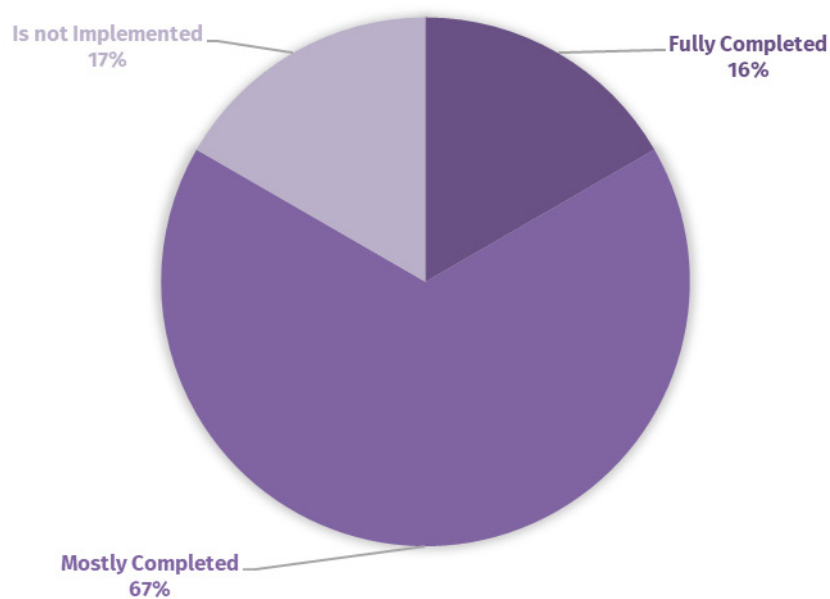
Fully Completed: 1

Mostly Completed: 4

Is not Implemented: 1

Objective Progress: 72% (Mostly Completed)

ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



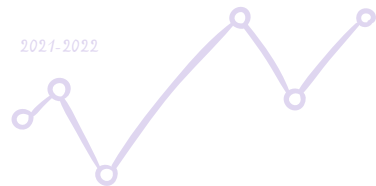
Activity 7.2.1.1. Retraining representatives of law-enforcement bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia on crimes committed on the grounds of intolerance and discrimination

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia	Minimum 200 retrained employees	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 70% (Mostly Completed)

The Ministry's Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring Department has provided training on crimes committed on the grounds of discrimination and intolerance directly to 3,200 employees, including those in territorial and structural units of the Ministry and in managerial positions, since its establishment.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ The response letter of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. №32300616578, 02.03.2023



The training encompassed various aspects, including information on discrimination, hate crimes, hate speech, offenses driven by hate, domestic violence, on the concepts of discrimination and intolerance, stereotypes in defining crimes, on the general standards stipulated by the European Convention on Human Rights, existing stereotypes, the needs of the LGBTQI+ community, and the services provided by non-governmental organizations, on each sign of discrimination and other important issues. Additionally, approximately 16,000 Ministry staff members completed training courses that featured sessions on hate crimes along with other priority topics.

Moreover, the 2021 action plan monitoring report⁵⁷ indicates that as part of the cascade training process for Ministry of Internal Affairs employees, around 200 employees from various territorial bodies and 125 employees from the patrol police department received training on effectively identifying and investigating hate crimes. Additionally, as per the information provided in the 2022 report⁵⁸ monitoring the action plan implementation, 15 police unit managers and 37 employees from the Mtskheta-Mtianeti and Shida Kartli police departments underwent training on similar topics.

The activity implementation status - 70% (Mostly Completed) was assigned because, the Ministry did not provide information on the ethnicity of the retrained employees, their work locations, or the criteria used for beneficiary selection. This lack of information hinders a comprehensive evaluation of the activity's effectiveness.

Activity 7.2.1.2. Active involvement of the coordinator-of-the-witness-and-victim in criminal and administrative cases where crime is committed on ethnic grounds

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia	Coordinator of the-witness-and-victim is involved in 20% of criminal cases committed on ethnic grounds	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 0% (Is not implemented)

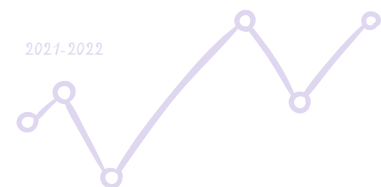
The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia reported⁵⁹ that 14 coordinators were employed in 2022, providing support to approximately 2,900 individuals. These coordinators offered psycho-emotional assistance to witnesses, victims, and other affected individuals, along with providing information about available legal, psychological, medical, and other services provided by the state. However, the reports on the implementation of the action plan for 2021 and 2022 do not provide additional details regarding the performance of this activity.

Based on the public information provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, it lacks clarity regarding the percentage of ethnically committed crimes in which the witness and victim coordinator is involved and how the reported 20% growth rate of involvement is calculated. Additionally, the Ministry did not address whether witness and victim coordinators are proficient in the languages of ethnic minorities when dealing with ethnically motivated crimes. Consequently, a comprehensive assessment of whether the agency has achieved the goals outlined within the activity is unattainable.

57 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.30 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

58 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021 - 2022 Action Plan. Pg.33 Tbilisi, 2023. Available at: <https://bit.ly/40Nljrt>

59 The response letter of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. №32300616578, 02.03.2023



Activity 7.2.1.3. Translation of legal acts in ethnic minority languages

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Ministry of Justice of Georgia; LEPL Legislative Herald of Georgia	Minimum 3 legal acts have been translated in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 100% (Fully Completed)

In both the 2021⁶⁰ and 2022⁶¹ monitoring reports on the implementation of the action plan, it is mentioned that LEPL Legislative Herald of Georgia translated the following legislative acts into Abkhazian, Ossetian, Azerbaijani, and Armenian languages:

1. Constitution of Georgia;
2. Administrative Procedure Code of Georgia (translated into Azerbaijani and Armenian languages);
3. Law of Georgia on prevention of violence against women, protection and assistance to victims of violence;
4. Law of Georgia on elimination of all forms of discrimination;
5. Law of Georgia on General Education (translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages);
6. Organic law of Georgia on the approval of the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara;
7. The Organic Law of Georgia on State Symbols of Georgia;
8. Law of Georgia on the manner of using Georgian symbols;
9. Organic Law of Georgia on normative acts;
10. Constitutional Law of Georgia on the Autonomous Republic of Adjara;
11. Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia;
12. Civil Code of Georgia.

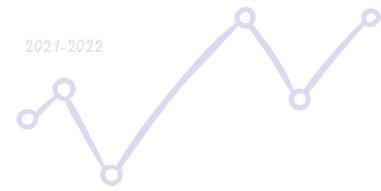
The same information was confirmed⁶² by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia in its response letter.

The activity implementation status - 100% (Fully Completed)

60 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.30 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qcix>

61 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021 - 2022 Action Plan. Pg.33 Tbilisi, 2023. Available at: <https://bit.ly/40Nljrt>

62 The response letter of the Ministry of Justice, №2521. 07.03.2023



Activity 7.2.1.4. Information campaign "Free Legal Advice on State Services"

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality	Around 60 meetings attended by over 1000 beneficiaries	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 60% (Mostly Completed)

The 2021 report on the implementation of the action plan indicates⁶³ that the project "Access to free legal state services for ethnic minorities" was initiated by the State Minister's office. As part of this project, information was provided to 498 individuals in the native languages of representatives of ethnic minorities in the Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, and Kakheti regions, covering 16 villages located at a distance from municipal centers.

In the 2022 report⁶⁴ monitoring the implementation of the action plan, it is mentioned that meetings about state programs and services were organized in the Kvemo Kartli region through the initiative and coordination of the State Minister's office. A total of 40 meetings took place, with approximately 1500 beneficiaries participating. However, the report does not specify the locations (villages or towns) where the meetings were held, and it does not provide details on whether the content of these meetings included information on free legal state services.

In addition, the report does not provide details on the language in which the meetings were conducted or whether they were accessible to representatives of ethnic minorities. Therefore, it is unclear whether the meetings mentioned in the 2022 action plan monitoring report included the implementation of activity 7.2.1.4.

The activity implementation status - 60% (Mostly Completed) was assigned because, the activity does not fully align with the set goals, particularly in terms of the number of meetings and beneficiaries, as the report lacks detailed information on language accessibility and the specific content of the meetings.

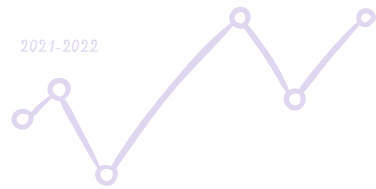
Activity 7.2.1.5. Translation of leaflets on the rights of defendants/convicts for the representatives of ethnic minorities

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Special Penitentiary Service	Around 8000 information leaflets on the rights of defendants/convicts are available in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages	2022 4th quarter

Status and Activity Progress: 60% (Mostly Completed)

63 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021- 2022 Action Plan. Pg.30 Tbilisi, 2022. Available at: <https://bit.ly/476qciX>

64 Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021 - 2022 Action Plan. Pg.33 Tbilisi, 2023. Available at: <https://bit.ly/40Nljrt>



2021-2022

10,760 pamphlets were translated in six requested languages and printed,⁶⁵ covering the following issues: the rights of the accused, the rights of convicted minors, the rights of convicted women, and the rights of convicted men in Georgian. It ensures that individuals in the justice system have access to information in their preferred languages, contributing to better communication and understanding of their rights. The agency's commitment to providing the brochures upon request also supports individualized access to information.

In all penitentiary institutions, the rights in Georgian language are prominently displayed on a designated stand, ensuring easy access for beneficiaries. As regards to the access to the translated versions, the information stating, that "You can request the rights and duties of the accused/convict from the administration in a language you understand" in also displayed in Russian, English, Turkish, Persian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani languages. As per the information provided by the agency, the brochures are not accessible online in electronic form.

Moreover, as per the 2022 report⁶⁶ on the implementation of the action plan, the Special Penitentiary Service undertook the printing and dissemination of informational pamphlets outlining the rights and responsibilities of the accused and convicted individuals during the year. A collective sum of 480 brochures was disseminated in Armenian, and a total of 1150 brochures in Azerbaijani.

The activity implementation status - 60% (Mostly Completed) was assigned because, the rationale behind the distinct approach in the administration of brochures prepared in Georgian versus non-Georgian languages is not clear. According to information provided by the agency, individuals who speak Russian, English, Turkish, Persian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani languages must seek information about their rights and obligations from the administration, unlike their counterparts who speak Georgian. This practice might pose an additional obstacle for them in obtaining information about their rights. Consequently, considering such practices, the fulfillment of the planned activities within the specified initiative cannot be deemed entirely accomplished.

Activity 7.2.1.6. Conducting trainings on antidiscrimination legislation for the employees of Special Penitentiary Service

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:	INDICATOR:	DEADLINE:
Ministry of Justice of Georgia; LEPL Justice Training Center of Georgia	Meetings held for three groups; around 45 employees have been retrained	2022 4th quarter

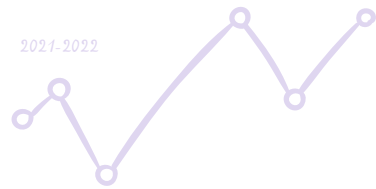
Status and Activity Progress: 70% (Mostly Completed)

In adherence to the provisions stipulated in activity 7.2.1.6 of the action plan, the Justice Training Center of Georgian orchestrated the following events:

In 2021, as part of the "Special Penitentiary Service Employees Orientation Course" (Escort Officer), a seminar titled "Understanding Discrimination" was conducted in the Georgian language for personnel

⁶⁵ The response letter of Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Special Penitentiary Service, KA010171531329823, №70595/01, 15.03.2023.

⁶⁶ Report on the Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2021 - 2022 Action Plan. Pg.33 Tbilisi, 2023. Available at: <https://bit.ly/40Njrt>



from the state sub-departmental institution - the Special Penitentiary Service. The training drew the participation of 9 individuals, all of whom were male;

In 2022, an extensive orientation program, known as the "Universal Training Module," was delivered in the Georgian language for Special Penitentiary Service personnel. This program encompassed pertinent subjects, notably disability and gender equality. The training sessions were administered across 10 groups, totaling 149 participants, inclusive of 19 women and 130 men.

Based on the action plan and publicly available information, it is evident that only two out of the three scheduled meetings were conducted. However, the details regarding the second meeting held by the agency in 2022 lack information on the number of attendees from the Special Penitentiary Service, making it challenging to evaluate whether more than 45 employees from this service underwent training in anti-discrimination law. Furthermore, the provided agency data does not specify the representation of ethnic minorities among the training participants.

While it is known that the 2021 meeting was conducted in Georgian, the language of the second meeting remains unspecified. This omission hinders a comprehensive understanding of the agency's language considerations for these sessions. Importantly, the 2021 and 2022 annual reports on the action plan's implementation fail to reflect the specified details, creating a gap in the transparency and accountability of the undertaken initiatives.

The activity implementation status - 60% (Mostly Completed) was assigned because, given the available public information and the reports on the implementation of the action plan, it is not feasible to ascertain the comprehensive status of the complete implementation of the specified activity. Key gaps and uncertainties, including the absence of details regarding the second meeting in 2022—specifically the number of attendees from the Special Penitentiary Service and the representation of ethnic minorities in the training sessions—hinder a conclusive assessment. Furthermore, the annual reports for both 2021 and 2022 lack reflection of crucial information, contributing to the challenge of fully understanding the status and effectiveness of the undertaken initiatives.

