

ENGAGING CITIZENS, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





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JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2019

Europe Foundation's mission is to empower people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity through the development of hands-on programs, helping them to improve their communities and their own lives. To achieve its mission, Europe Foundation strives to strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions, empowering them to address pressing issues and to mobilize relevant stakeholders in issue-based dialogue, through raising public awareness and creating various coalitions, platforms or working groups, so as to effect positive change.

Europe Foundation's work is guided by the following approaches: creating opportunities for civic participation in public policy making, engaging youth, fostering a culture of corporate and community philanthropy, including through the formation of public-private-NGO partnerships, promoting evidence-based advocacy and decision making, and building trust and confidence across religious, ethnic, and community divides.

Europe Foundation's programs include **European Integration, Youth Integration, Social Enterprise, Engage and Monitor for Change, and Open-Door Grantmaking Programs**. Together, these programs work to achieve the Foundation's mission and provide opportunities for Georgians to engage in social, economic, and political developments, in order to effect substantive and sustainable positive change at the local and national levels.

In 2019 Europe Foundation made significant progress toward achieving its mission and programmatic objectives.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I would like to present a brief summary of the work Europe Foundation and its partners have undertaken in 2019 towards empowering people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity. Through its multifaceted programs the Foundation was able to create numerous opportunities for civic participation in public policy making for substantive positive changes at both the local and national levels. These programs focused on a variety of development strategies, including the capacity building of both individuals and institutions, policy research, issue-based discussions, grant-based and organizational development support to civil society organizations, and community and youth mobilization work.

Europe Foundation's grant-based and organizational development support plays an important part in consolidating the transformative role of civil society organizations in Georgia. Participatory civil monitoring projects supported through the Engage and Monitor for Change and Open-Door Grantmaking programs led to tangible changes for various communities across Georgia in 2019, ranging from greater PWD-needs-based budgeting in the Telavi and Ozurgeti municipalities to the introduction of participatory public decision making in the Gori and Keda municipalities, whereas the Social Enterprise

Development Program enabled three more civil society organizations to either start up or accelerate their social enterprises.

Europe Foundation's Youth Integration Program brought together over 1,300 volunteers who initiated and implemented over 330 projects benefiting over 5,000 community members across Georgia, including Abkhazia. These young activists succeeded in propelling local governments, business entities, school administrations, civil society organizations and adult community members toward making financial and in-kind contributions to support projects that transform local communities.

In September 2019, under its European Integration Program, the Foundation presented the results of its nationwide public opinion surveys on the knowledge and attitudes of the Georgian public toward European integration. The report, the sixth in the series since 2009, once again confirmed Georgia's commitment to European Integration and the population's desire to enhance its knowledge of specific aspects of the process and of the EU's continuing support for Georgia.

In December 2019, Europe Foundation launched the mobile application "Uvno". This app enables consumers to access official food safety inspection

results for enterprises via their smartphones and to rate or share their observations about these companies' food safety systems and procedures. Within two months of its launch about 2,000 unique users had started to engage with the app, rating it with average score of 4 out of 5. We believe, the app and its increasing number of active users will further encourage the transparency of the food safety system in Georgia.

In 2019, Europe Foundation offered various capacity building opportunities to Georgian civil society groups, among them training sessions and seminars focused on topics including: storytelling and media literacy, and minority protection and integration. The Storytelling and Media Literacy training helped civil society organizations to better utilize the media and media tools to support the empowerment of disadvantaged, vulnerable, and marginalized groups, and to ensure that citizens receive unbiased information about the developments taking place around them. The Minority Integration seminar focused on improving their knowledge and understanding of the international standards and mechanisms for the protection of minority rights, and the importance of utilizing minority-sensitive approaches when designing and implementing projects.

Europe Foundation continues to bring international best practices and standards to Georgia while also drawing international attention to crucial issues facing Georgia. To bolster increased civil society participation in fiscal policy making, Europe Foundation established cooperation with the Global Initiative for Budget Transparency (GIFT), a network that facilitates dialogue between governments, civil society organizations, international financial institutions and other stakeholders to find and

share solutions to challenges in fiscal transparency and participation. In December 2019, Europe Foundation, in cooperation with the network, organized a launch event with the participation of Georgian civil society, government and international organizations, and GIFT experts from Uruguay, South Africa and Mexico. The Ministry of Finance of Georgia voiced its interest in becoming a member of the GIFT Network, which, if realized, will greatly support our efforts in engaging Georgian civil society in the planning and execution of the public budget.

Europe Foundation was privileged to host the European Foundation Center's Grantmakers East Forum (GEF) in October 2019. This was the 24th GEF meeting, and it brought over 80 representatives of major international foundations working in Europe to explore the role of foundations in confronting the new threats and challenges to civil society in Europe and beyond. Georgian civil society organizations and activists were prominently featured at the conference as speakers, social enterprise fair participants and hosts to site-visits and cultural tours.

In 2019, the Europe Foundation's Facebook and web pages recorded nearly 700,000 unique visitors, each of whom became familiar with the stories of the challenges and successes of our programs, partners and beneficiaries. I hope, you will also enjoy reading next few pages and will continue to support us in making Georgia ever more inclusive, prosperous, and democratic.

Ketevan Vashakidze



ENGAGE AND MONITOR FOR CHANGE

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a vibrant green dress with a complex paisley pattern in shades of purple, blue, and white. She is standing in front of a green, weathered door with a lattice pattern. The background shows a rustic wooden fence and trees. Two yellow rectangular boxes are overlaid on the image: one in the top right corner containing the text 'ENGAGE AND MONITOR FOR CHANGE', and another in the center-left framing the woman's face.

**ENGAGE AND
MONITOR
FOR CHANGE**

Europe Foundation's Engage and Monitor for Change Program strives to enhance the influence of civil society on the public decision-making process. Significant headway has been made In 2019, with Europe Foundation grantees and their project partners undertaking a number of participatory civic monitoring actions, sixteen of which resulted in concrete tangible changes for Georgian citizens, ranging from fixing street infrastructure and public transportation problems in Gori to the inclusion of special programs for PWDs in the municipal budgets of Telavi and Ozurgeti. All the resulting changes stemming from these projects benefited the populations residing in the regions of Georgia.



“We have been working for one year to contribute to the effectiveness of public administration in the Gori municipality and to get the problems identified by community members on the

agenda of the local authorities. This project not only allowed us to address over 10 problems, it also helped transform Mosaic Radio into a media outlet oriented towards community needs. Furthermore, the project set the precedent of effective cooperation with the authorities – although we continued to criticize the local government and report on their wrongdoings, they seemed to listen to and take heed of what we were saying to them about the people’s needs and interests. The definite proof of this is the way in which the Gori authorities continue to react to our stories”.

– Gvanca Doluashvili, Mosaica

Civic Participation in Public Finance Management

In 2019 Europe Foundation advocated for increased civic participation in public finance management (PFM) reforms following the findings of the report *“Making the Most of Public Resources for Full Inclusion and Participation of People with Disabilities in Georgia”*. The study was carried out by a team of international and national experts following a truly participatory methodology: about 15 civil society organizations (CSOs) and disabled persons’ organizations (DPOs) working on the needs of people with disabilities (PWDs) and their families participated in the workshops and meetings facilitated by Europe Foundation to provide their inputs to the research. Experts and participants reviewed a detailed spreadsheet outlining all 2018 PWD-related public spending on a central level and, based on this information, worked on a draft set of recommendations. Following these recommendations, as well as the guidelines prepared by Europe Foundation’s international consultant, the targeted CSOs and DPOs undertook joint gap analysis to generate strong evidence for CRPD-responsive fiscal policymaking in Georgia. Thorough the year, international consultants, Alex Cote and Diana Chiriacescu, worked intensively with DPOs on different aspects of CRPD-compliant budget advocacy, including the development of social services for community inclusion.



Partnership with GIFT

To increase CSOs participation in fiscal policymaking, Europe Foundation established a cooperative relationship with the Global Initiative for Budget Transparency (GIFT). GIFT is a global network with demonstrated experience in standard-setting and the facilitation of dialogue between CSOs, public authorities, and other stakeholders, to address the challenges of public participation in fiscal policy making. The main focuses of GIFT

standard-setting, which Europe Foundation will be promoting in Georgia, are the High-Level Principles of Fiscal Transparency, Participation and Accountability, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2013, and the Ten GIFT Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policy Making adopted in 2016 to support governments in fulfilling their aspirations for the direct and open participation of citizens in the management of public resources.



Grantee Stories:

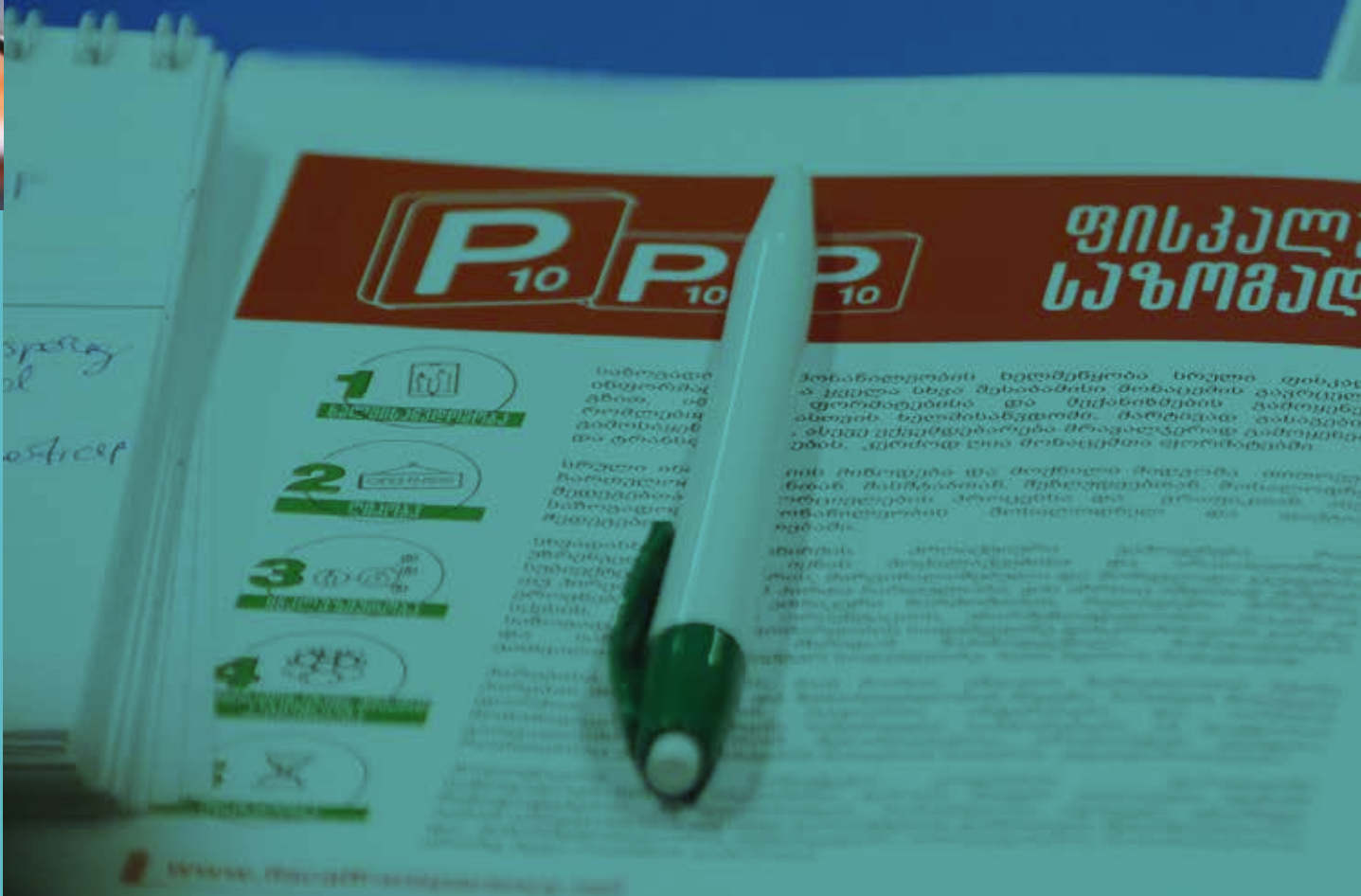
Community Radio Mosaic promoted transparent and accountable governance practices in Gori municipality by increasing citizens' awareness of municipal decisions through media platforms. As a result of their programs - 214 episodes of the new program monitoring for transparent governance and 37 episodes of the talk-show "Time for Self-Governance" - the poor sanitary conditions of the city's underground passageways was partially resolved, with the municipality cleaning and refurbishing some of these passages. In total, 11 infrastructural concerns have been addressed by the municipality, ranging

from street installations to the arranging of a meeting between a Sakrebulo member and Uplitsikhe residents. **The Ozurgeti-based CSO Civic Center of Guria (CCG)** supported citizen engagement in the public life of Ozurgeti municipality for the improved access of Ozurgeti residents to green spaces. As a result of the efforts of the Ozurgeti-based Union Our Children, the 2019 municipal budget supplied PWDs with much needed diapers. Similarly, the Telavi-based CSO Lampari, succeeded in putting two important issues on the policy agenda through a multi-stakeholder working group.



“With the support of Europe Foundation, we launched a project to bring together and empower parents whose children have disabilities. We brought together 25 parents living in the Telavi municipality. Through advocacy efforts we succeeded in manning the council of advisors set up in Telavi municipality to assist the parents and identify and raise those issues that required municipal support. We conducted a survey to identify the needs of the PWD community, interviewed approximately 140 parents of children with disabilities and learned about their needs and desires. Then, we prioritized these issues and have already achieved two important outcomes: first, the municipality will finance expensive medication for treating epilepsy, which has not been funded and is of vital importance for children suffering from epilepsy; and second, urinary incontinence products will be financed for the PWD community and this will be a considerable relief for the families.”

– Nino Maisuradze, founder of Lampari





EUROPEAN INTEGRATION





Europe Foundation believes that civil society should be engaged in and contribute to participatory decision making to achieve convergence with European values, standards, and practices.

In 2019, Europe Foundation commissioned the sixth wave of its nationwide public opinion poll on the knowledge and attitudes of the Georgian public toward European integration. This poll also covered areas where Armenian and Azeri ethnic minorities are compactly settled, surveying these communities in their respective national languages. The 2019 survey results were compared with the 2017, 2015, 2013, 2011 and 2009 polls, which allowed for the identification of trends and significant changes during the past eleven years.

The main findings of the 2019 Survey include:

- ▶ The majority of the Georgian population maintains an overall positive attitude towards

Georgia's European integration. However, this enthusiasm does not often rest on a deep knowledge of the specificity of the EU-Georgia relationship or of the EU as an institution. 53% of the Georgian population would like to receive more information about the EU.

- ▶ The population names the EU as Georgia's preferred political and economic partner and firmly supports Georgia's integration into the EU, despite the understood risks associated with this integration.

- ▶ Some pragmatic motivations stand behind this support of European integration, including: the expectations of improving one's economic conditions (54%); the better protection of the country (21%) and; the hope of restoring Georgia's territorial integrity (14%).

- ▶ 42% of the Georgian population agrees with the statement that "the EU threatens Georgian traditions." About the same portion of the population does not share this belief (46%).



▶ 66% of the Georgian population believes that Georgia's European integration will negatively (38%) or very negatively (28%) affect Georgia's relations with Russia.

▶ The majority of the Georgian population believes that EU assistance to Georgia is important for the country. 24% of the population believes that EU support in the restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity would be the best form of assistance and 22% of the population favors investing in Georgia's economy compared to other forms of EU assistance.

▶ Compared to Georgian speakers, ethnic minorities have less information about the EU and support European Integration in a lower proportion.

▶ The majority of the population believes that that it is "very important" for a good citizen to follow traditions (66%) and to support people who are worse off (72%). According to 49% of

the population, it is very important for a good citizen to volunteer and to do work which is beneficial for society without any pay. At the same time, only 30% of the population thinks that a good citizen should be critical towards the government or the opposition, while 20% of the population thinks that a good citizen should participate in protest actions. The proportion of the population who thinks that participation in protest actions is important for a good citizen has almost doubled since 2009.

▶ The level of trust towards the following political institutions remains low: President (27%), Prime-Minister (24%), parliament (19%), political parties (13%) and the court system (17%). The population has highest trust in the Georgian military (77%), police (51%) and religious institutions (74%). About same portions of the population trust the media and CSOs – 27% in both cases.





Uvno Food Safety Application

To promote the transparency of food safety official control results, Europe Foundation started to work with the National Food Agency to develop the mobile application “Uvno”. The application was launched in November 2019 and it enables consumers to access official food safety inspection results for enterprises in Tbilisi and the regions via android or IOS smartphones and to rate or share their observations on these companies’ food safety systems online. About 2,000 distinct users were signing into the application as of December 31, 2019. Both IOS and Android users have given the application positive ratings (an average of 4 scores out of 5) and many of them have already started to share their ratings on the platform.



“The survey reports that the Georgian population puts a large amount of trust in the European Union and in what we stand for. This is quite positive news. However, one of the issues that I reacted to with some concern is more to do with the lack of trust in domestic institutions, which is fundamental for us as partners as well as for the EU to advance the agenda that we would like to see in Georgia.”

– Carl Hartzell , EU Ambassador to Georgia



YOUTH INTEGRATION PROGRAM



Europe Foundation believes that young people, if given appropriate skills and mechanisms, can bring unique and fresh perspectives, energy, and solutions to entrenched problems. In Georgia, however, few outlets exist for practical, youth-empowerment activities that promote civic participation and integration. Europe Foundation's Youth Integration Program promotes youth volunteerism and civic engagement, by building their capacity as civic leaders and community philanthropists and by providing them with opportunities to engage as active citizens in identifying and addressing local needs. Given Europe Foundation's reach across the administrative boundary line (ABL) in Abkhazia, the program also works toward creating a cadre of likeminded civic leaders on both sides of the ABL with a long-term perspective of improving cooperation across the conflict divide.

In 2019 Europe Foundation's Youth Integration Program continued to contribute to enhanced female and male youth volunteerism and civic engagement in 27 communities across Georgia (including Abkhazia). Throughout the year 191



"I can cite a number of examples of how we managed to improve the environment through engaging the population. A little while ago, we volunteered to collect money: we traveled around villages near the region, explained to people that we wanted to plant trees in the territory of the school and promised to plant individual trees in their names if they engaged and assisted us with small amounts of money. As a result, we collected GEL 2,500. With this money, we planted trees in the school territory and changed our environment."

– Meri Bolkvadze, Youth Bank member

small scale grants were awarded to more than 224 youth by Youth Banks (YBs). As a result, Europe Foundation mobilized 1,346 volunteers and 5,098 community members benefitted from these small grant projects. In addition to implementing the grant cycle, YB committee members who had participated in various Europe Foundation's capacity-building activities went on to implement 148 new community development initiatives outside of the Foundation's support.

Along with implementing the regular grant cycle, YB members also completed several capacity building actions, such as a workshop on entrepreneurship, a training on community leadership, a training on environmental issues, sanitation and hygiene advocacy training and a training on media literacy. These capacity building efforts have already translated into the successful completion of two youth-led initiatives designed and implemented by Marneuli and Chokhatauri YB members and financially supported by Europe Foundation.

Europe Foundation continued to implement its USAID-funded project to support YB activities on the other side of the ABL. In 2019 Europe Foundation has completed six capacity building actions for 108 young people in Georgia, out of which about 50% are residing in Abkhazia, across the ABL. In addition, YB members were given an opportunity to learn more about tolerance and cultural diversity and to meet their peers from the other side of the ABL during the Leadership Conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and during the Harvesting Impact Stories visit in Yerevan, Armenia. These activities helped to establish constructive relationships between young people from different sides of the conflict divide.



“I really learned a lot and somehow grew as a person. Recently, my friend and I were recalling the day I decided to get involved with the Youth Idea. On my way to the project office I had not yet decided whether I really wanted to join the project. When I was halfway there, I even turned around and began to retrace my steps back home. But then I told myself that I’d lose nothing by simply going there. Now I can only guess how much I’d have really lost had I not joined the

Youth Idea. I’m a different person now. I used to have a much narrower outlook on things. In Marneuli we all know each other, we all grow in the same direction and cannot see many things in their broader sense. I too was constrained within the limits – those prescribed by the traditional ideology. I was shy and had difficulty communicating. During our first training we were asked to give a one-minute presentation of some project. I had the project idea, but at that time I didn’t have the courage to speak before an audience. Today I have acquired the skills to write project proposals, make presentations, and to communicate with superiors on equal terms. I’ve met with lots of people and my horizons have expanded as a result.”

– Demo Abdelani, Marneuli Youth Bank member



“With the funds provided by our project we bought sports equipment and used it for various competitions and activities. We have organized about 10 competitions so far, all of which were popular with children and were followed by an upsurge of interest. Most importantly, the young people’s enthusiasm turned out to be contagious. As I noticed, nobody attended fitness classes until the project was launched. Though we are just students, we managed to give the school a greater scope. Parents should also show closer interest and realize that such activities are of benefit to their children. Some parents are even changing traditional attitudes as they decide that they should not discourage their daughters from playing football or taking part in other sports activities.”

– Giorgi Khmaladze, Khoni Youth Bank Member



YB in numbers

27

communities across Georgia, including Abkhazia

1,346

volunteers mobilized

148

community initiatives

191

small-scale grants issued by YB committees

5,098

beneficiaries





**SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE
DEVELOPMENT**

Over the years, Europe Foundation has supported social enterprise (SE) development in Georgia, contributing to increased civic engagement and inclusive political and economic governance in the country. The Social Enterprise Development Program ensures that CSOs are increasingly utilizing the SE concept to attain long-term financial sustainability and address the needs of their vulnerable constituencies. Europe Foundation's consistent efforts in this arena drew the attention of civil society and public authorities to the SE concept.

“Six years ago, when I arrived in Borjomi, children with disabilities were not taken out of their homes by their parents; there was no service whatsoever for their integration into society. In general, when you start to work with the PWD community, the first obstacle you bump into is parents. We overcame that obstacle, and the majority of parents now easily approach us and entrust their children to us. The results are already apparent, and now we have 34 beneficiaries and we implement programs for children and adults. Understanding that we could not wholly depend on either the Healthcare Ministry or the donors, we established the social enterprise TEBE from the very beginning to help maintain our financial sustainability. On the one hand, it was an element of therapy and on the other hand, it became a source of income. In 2019 with support from Europe Foundation we purchased a laser cutting and engraving machine that enables us to produce and sell larger amounts of more diverse products. With the new machine, our beneficiaries work on various materials: wood, plywood, book covers, plexiglass, leather, even knits. We constantly think about improving and diversifying the collection so that our income increases, and we are able to reinvest money in services that we provide in the day center and that serves to improve the health of PWDs and their integration into society.”

– Nana Lomadze, Founder of social enterprise Tebe





In 2019, as part of its efforts to support social enterprise development, Europe Foundation continued to support SEs launched and run by CSOs through the provision of funding and the offering of capacity building activities, or by creating new distribution opportunities for SE-produced products. As a result of these efforts, Europe Foundation's grantee CSO Together for Real Changes (TRC) started to foster the socio-economic integration of PWDs through the establishment of a SE on the premises of its day care center Tebe in Borjomi. The CSO Young Pedagogue's Union, which is working to increase tolerance and multicultural awareness among youth in Ozurgeti, increased the profitability of its social café Rvas+1 by improving its infrastructure and diversifying the assortment of caffeinated beverages and tea, thus attracting more customers. Europe Foundation also supported the Georgian Association of Educational Initiatives, which is working to use informal education to foster the development of critical and creative thinking skills among Georgian youth. It is currently working to establish a social enterprise LEGO Robotics Center, which offers Rustavi residents affordable LEGO Robotics classes for children.

In 2019 the CSO Abkhazintercont continued its efforts toward increasing the profitability of its SE Agama. It concluded agreements with two supermarkets in Kutaisi, as well as with Herbia, a large vegetable distributor. Another Europe Foundation's grantee, SE Akhali Mziuri's (CSO Mziani), continued to deliver catering services to maintain their sustainability and profitability, and were able to reinvest in Mziani's social activities, including weekly movie screenings for youth and adults. Yet another Europe Foundation' grantee, SE Arabuli Arthouse (CSO Khevsureti and Community), developed a stock of inventory for the high season and identified an additional new intermediary in Sighnaghi, which exhibited and sold the grantee's products. Furthermore, SE Babale (CSO For Real Changes) established an independent Ltd. Babale, which will function as a social enterprise. The statute of Ltd. Babale includes its commitment to reinvest its profits into the CSO For Real Changes. It is noteworthy that within two months of establishing the enterprise, the value of its taxable transactions exceeded GEL 100,000.





A photograph of a rural village street. In the foreground, a woman wearing a red jacket, a dark skirt, and a colorful headscarf is walking towards the camera, holding a leash for a white dog with brown patches. She is surrounded by several brown cows. In the background, a man in a dark coat is sweeping the dirt street with a broom, and a young girl in a blue shirt is walking. The buildings are made of weathered wood and have corrugated metal roofs. A wooden staircase with a railing leads up to a second-story entrance on the right. A yellow rectangular box highlights the text 'OPEN DOOR GRANTMAKING PROGRAM' in the upper left, and another yellow rectangular box highlights the woman and the dog in the lower right.

OPEN DOOR GRANTMAKING PROGRAM



Europe Foundation's flagship Open Door Grantmaking program gives CSOs a rare opportunity in Georgia, enabling them to be proactive in identifying and addressing local needs and developing fresh ideas and solutions for existing challenges. The Program's demand-driven approach allows CSOs to provide timely responses to constituency-identified issues. Because the program supports projects that foster civic engagement for systemic changes, it can be potentially replicated either in geographic terms or across various issue areas.

In 2019 the Foundation continued to provide CSOs with one of the very few opportunities to be proactive in identifying and addressing local needs, developing fresh solutions and ideas to existing challenges. Through Open Door Program, Europe Foundation awarded two new grants to the following CSOs:

1. The Guria Youth Resource Center, so that it promotes participatory decision making in Ozurgeti municipality through settlement assemblies in Ozurgeti municipality;
2. Charity Humanitarian Center "Abkhazia", so that it contributes to inclusive decision-making for the social and political integration of IDPs residing in the regions of Shida Kartli, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Imereti and Samegrelo.

Europe Foundation's organizational development initiative continues to provide strategic institutional development support to CSOs. Association Anika completed the implementation of its organizational development strategy and invested efforts in improving its communications, human resource management, program management and board governance capacities.

In addition, Europe Foundation noted that the coverage of its institutional grants could be expanded, in order to support a larger pool of CSOs in their organizational development efforts. Toward this end, Europe Foundation reviewed the performance of its grantees over the past two years and decided to provide additional funding to all those CSOs that have successfully implemented their Europe Foundation-funded projects, so as to solidify the impact of their grant projects and to strengthen their institutional capacity in the following areas: program, financial, human resource management, board governance, fundraising, and communication. Eight grantees were selected for additional support: the Association of Young Artists of Georgia "Art for the Public Interests", the Samtskhe-Javakheti Media Center, MegaTV Ltd., Media Center Kakheti, Parsa, Innovation and Civic Development Center – Progress House, Union Our Children, Gori Community Radio Mosaic.

Updates from grant projects on-going in 2019



“The most important outcome of the Participation for Better Results Project was the creation of the Citizens’ Council comprised of local community members, including national minority representatives, first in the Borjomi municipality and later – across the Samtskhe-Javakheti region. Activating and empowering each member of the Council was one of the project’s remarkable achievements.

Having examined the key challenges in 30 local communities within the framework of the project, the Council members then started advocating for solutions to these issues. 44% of the problems identified by the communities have either been fully resolved or steps are being taken towards their solution, in cooperation with the local authorities and through the active engagement of the local population.

The project provided to the local population the first-time opportunity to meet with decision-makers in their own community and to push them to address the important problems facing the village. This also allowed the beneficiaries to see the power and importance of their participation in the decision-making process.

30 meetings were conducted with local communities. The over 400 representatives who attended the meetings brought over 75 specific problems to the attention of the authorities. Of these problems, 33 were resolved within a two-year-period, from the launch of the project to date. For example: a kindergarten was built in the village of Dviri; the culture house was rehabilitated in Tsagveri; the drinking water system was repaired and the bridge was rehabilitated in Akhaldab; the roads were repaired and a football field was installed in Kvibisi; the access roads to the village of Tabatskuri were repaired, and the previously out-of-service ambulatory clinic was restored and a nurse was appointed to work there; litter bins were installed on the roads in Kortaneti; worn-out water pipes were rehabilitated in Tsikhisjvari; roads were repaired and outdoor lighting systems were installed in Mzetamze; and a square was built in the village of Tba.

As for the Council members themselves, the community began to rely on them as leaders who had the desire and powers to advocate for issues that were important to the community. As far as we are concerned, the project greatly contributed to our organizational and institutional development in a way that would hardly have been possible without the Europe Foundation.”

– Marika Kupatadze, Samtskhe-Javakheti Media Center

Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD)

To contribute to participatory decision making in the Bolnisi and Keda municipalities, the Europe Foundation's grantee CIPDD directed its efforts toward strengthening the newly established Councils of Civic Advisors (CCAs). This involved training 24 members from the Bolnisi and Keda CCAs in local self-governance, participatory budgeting, problem identification and analysis and project development. 11 issues of local concern were identified, and then advocated in front of local authorities. As reported by the grantee, one local issue, the rehabilitation of the irrigation system in the Keda municipality village of Doghodzeebi, was put on the local authority's agenda.





“Civic engagement is an important component of local self-government that is primarily achieved by the real enactment of civic engagement mechanisms provided for by the law. Civic engagement mechanisms stipulated in the law – citizen-led Community Advisory Councils at the Mayors’ offices were structurally reorganized and put into place in two municipalities – Batumi and Keda – during the project. The newly established councils identified several problems and put them before the Mayor. The Community Advisory Council in Keda, through our assistance, obtained donor financing and administered it successfully. The project envisaged raising awareness of the renewed council among the Keda population, holding meetings within all communities and speaking about the population’s problems, as well as establishing communication between the population and the council members. Based on the project results, several partner city halls - Akhakalaki, Shuakhevi and Khulo - appealed to the CIPDD to carry out similar projects for their municipalities and to strengthen the skills and structures of their citizen-led councils. It is encouraging that the aforementioned engagement mechanisms are functioning within the target municipality city halls in compliance with the organic law, without any violations. This project has had numerous positive outcomes: yet another means of effective communication between the population and the local self-government bodies has been developed, an effective communications platform has been put in place for local development actors, and, the population has been given a new mechanism for advocating for their problems with city hall.”

– Merab Tsindeliani, CIPDD



Media Center Kakheti

The Telavi-based Media Center Kakheti carried out an in-depth population needs assessment in the Telavi and Gurjaani municipalities and produced a report summarizing the most pressing local issues. The grantee trained 32 representatives of local CSOs and municipal authorities on the topics of participatory budgeting, strategic communication, community mobilization, and advocacy, and informed them about the need assessment findings. The trained individuals were brought together in two Advisory Committees to advocate for the implementation of constituency-driven initiatives aimed at addressing local issues of concern.

To facilitate civic engagement in local decision-making, the grantee launched the online platform www.initiative.ge through which the residents of Telavi and Gurjaani municipalities submit local initiatives and vote for those that they would like to see implemented. The grantee signed partnership memoranda with the Telavi and Gurjaani City Halls, envisioning the local authorities' commitment to fund local initiatives uploaded on the aforementioned platform. The citizens' advocacy efforts led to the resolution of 5 of the issues raised, including the installation of ramps in the building of Telavi City Hall, the allocation of free space in the city center for graffiti art, the marking of pedestrian walkways, the repairing of maintenance pit covers, and the repairing of sidewalks near Telavi market.



“The project’s main achievement has been the creation of a model of joint cooperation between the local self-government, the non-governmental sector and the population. Two advisory councils comprised of representatives from the local population, government and non-governmental sector were set up in the Telavi and Gurjaani municipalities. The councils played an important role in identifying and solving issues important to the community. An innovative online platform was created allowing the citizens to put forward initiatives relevant to the community. This platform ensures that these initiatives are examined and submitted for consideration to municipality city halls/assemblies. Field coordinators helped mobilize citizens’ initiatives in villages and other places far from the center. Setting a precedent, 6 initiatives were selected for financing. Focus group trainings raised the awareness of self-government bodies and civil organizations about the importance of civic engagement, improving the skills and competences of civil servants regarding democratic governance processes.”

– Maia Mamulashvili, Media Center Kakheti

Europe Foundation

Statement of Financial Position for the Year Ended on December 31, 2019 (in USD)

Assets	2018	2019
<i>Current Assets</i>		
Deferred grant expenses	52,674	41,153
Other receivables	23,770	25,532
Cash and cash equivalents	1,338,382	1,237,399
Total current assets	1,414,826	1,304,084
<i>Non-current assets</i>		
Investment in associate	38,117	40,742
Total non-current assets	38,117	40,742
Total assets	1,452,943	1,344,826
Liabilities and net assets		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Deferred grant income	904,771	1,002,371
Other payables	52,756	40,694
Tax liabilities	2,671	—
Total liabilities	960,198	1,043,065
<i>Net assets</i>		
Accumulated result	819,726	996,405
Foreign currency translation reserve	(326,981)	(694,644)
Total liabilities and net assets	1,452,943	1,344,826



FOUNDING PARTNERS

Eurasia Foundation/USAID
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

DONORS IN 2018

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The publication is made possible by the support of Sida and Danida. The contents are the responsibility of Europe Foundation and do not necessarily represent views of Sida, the Swedish Government, Danida or the Danish Government.

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