



# TRAINING MANUAL

## ETHNIC MINORITIES IN GEORGIA AND EUROPEANIZATION

November | 2020



საპარლამენტო კვლევების ინსტიტუტი  
GEORGIAN INSTITUTE OF POLITICS





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Erasmus+ Programme  
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 **More Europe  
in Georgia**



## Training Manual

### Ethnic Minorities in Georgia and Europeanization

November | 2020

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The following manual was written within the framework of Erasmus + Jean Monnet Project “Promote and Act for Europe”. The project aims at promoting discussion on the EU among ethnic minority groups in Georgia, specifically by raising the awareness on the European integration.

The training manual is designed for the selected trainers from Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti civil society and education fields to enable them to re-train local population and raise the awareness on the EU. For these ends, the training manual is provided in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Field research and work meetings with local population in the region with compact ethnic minority settlements preceded the work on the manual. Specific topics for the training were selected in accordance to the aforementioned research. Experts of the EU and Georgia-EU relations, who also led pilot trainings, contributed to the formulation of the content and the methods to reach out to the target audience.

Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti local civil society and media organizations, as well as teachers and local government organizations constitute the primary target group of the project. Target regions were selected in accordance to the ethnic and religion minority settlements across the country and their respective problems with civil integration. The project envisions not only promoting discussions on European policy and providing relevant trainings to the target audience, but also advocating the needs of minorities both at national and international levels.

## INTRODUCTION

In terms of ethnicity, Georgia is one of the most diverse countries in Europe. According to the latest population census held in 2014, ethnic minorities make up approximately 13.2% of the population. The largest groups among them include Azerbaijani population (6.2%) and Armenian population (4.5%), densely populated in the Southern part of the country (Kvemo-Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti region). The remaining ethnic minorities do not make up compact settlements and are populated across different regions and urban centers. The existence of ethnic minorities and culturally diverse communities became one of the challenges for the Government of Georgia, while the major problem lies in the implementation of adequate and effective civil integration policy. This policy determines the extent to which the Georgian political organism manages to establish a state based on inclusion, collaboration and pluralism.

At the same time, it needs to be noted that protection of ethnic minority rights and their full integration into the society is one of the important aspects of Georgia's European policy. This approach is clearly reflected in Georgia's cooperation documents with other European institutions. Ethnic minority related topics take an important place in the Association Agreement signed with the EU, as well as among the commitments taken by Georgia within the framework of Council of Europe and OSCE. Especially important among them is the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities that establishes legally binding mechanisms for the signatory states and therefore represents the primary international mechanism for the protection of minority rights.

Georgia, with European orientation being the primary political priority, is obliged to implement programs to ensure inclusion and integration of ethnic minorities. This is reflected in the establishment of reporting mechanisms with relevant European institutions and employment of internal legal mechanisms oriented at identifying the needs of ethnic minorities and implementing required measures for ensuring their integration. The National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration and action plans have been in place since 2005 to reach this objective. The Concept is focused on meeting the following targets: ensuring equal and comprehensive participation [of minorities] in civil and political life; equal social and economic conditions and opportunities; providing quality education and improving the knowledge of official language; preserving the culture of ethnic minorities and guaranteeing tolerant environment.

Despite this, however, awareness on Georgia's European policy as well as programs related to minorities is extremely low among ethnic minorities living in Georgia, which is negatively reflected on country's security and integrating European values within the society. This challenge determined the need of creating the following training manual that aims at raising awareness on European Union among ethnic minorities.

Training material includes theoretical, as well as practical knowledge to enable the population to receive benefits provided by the Association Agreement signed between Georgia and the EU. The first topic presents the theoretical framework of European policy of European Union and Georgia and covers sub-topics such as Europeanization of Georgia's foreign policy, as well as accompanying challenges and prospects, EU-Georgia cooperation formats and their essence. The second topic concerns the role and rights of ethnic minorities within Georgia's European policy. The third topic unites mostly practical matters on how the Georgian citizens can benefit from free trade with the EU, visa free travel and educational exchange programs.

## USE OF MANUAL

The following manual is intended for the selected trainers from regions with compact ethnic minority settlements (Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli), who will conduct trainings for target groups on Georgia's European policy and minority issues. The manual is an assisting material for these trainers, covering the contents of primary importance for each of the topic and the ways for delivering the material.

The manual outlines general goals, importance, overview of discussion topics and suggested literature for the trainings. The annexes of the manual present practical information. More specifically, training schedule, phases for preparing the training, evaluation forms, instructions and additional material for trainings. The latter covers short information on every topic presented during the training, general structure of the training based on sessions and their duration.

Before the start of the training, it is important that trainers have thought through the goals of the training and its potential implications, concentrate on Georgia's European policy and strengthening of European civil values in Georgia while discussing the training topics. Before planning the training, it is recommended to follow the training cycle (Annex 1) structure. Outlines and additional material of the presented topics are meant to provide the general direction; however, trainers can accustom the outline of each topic to the audience in accordance to the instructions provided (Annex 3). The list of useful sources can support to expand or modify the topic. At the end of the training, it is recommended that the participants use the evaluation form (Annex 2) to help with improving and refining the training.

The topics outlined in the manual will be covered over the course of three days. Trainers can select five out of six topics and decide their order. It is advisable to hold the trainings in the following order:

**Day 1:** Introduction, Topic I

**Day 2:** Topics II and III

**Day 3:** Topics IV and V; Conclusion



## TRAINING PROGRAM

### TOPIC 1: EUROPEAN UNION AND GEORGIA: HISTORY AND FORMATS OF COOPERATION



## 1.1. Europeanization of Georgia's foreign policy: challenges and prospects

### Training Objective

Training aims at providing information to the participants on the existing challenges of Georgia's foreign policy. The participants will become familiar with the prospects of Georgia's Europeanization, impeding factors and the progress achieved up to this date. Additionally, the training aims at raising awareness not only about the prospect of Georgia, but also the position of the EU member states on Georgia's European integration. Lastly, the training participants will become familiar with the potential European integration models for Georgia and receive information on regional and individual integration models in comparative terms.

### Training Outcomes

At the end of the training, participants will be able to independently discuss Georgia's European integration process and identify the achieved progress and existing challenges in these regards. Additionally, at the end of the training, participants will be able to do a comparative analysis of Georgian and European perspectives on Georgia's European integration and Europeanization process. Lastly, as a result of the analysis of statistical data at the end of the training, participants will be able to comprehend the statistical data on the process of Georgia's European integration and relate it to the given topic.

### Topic Description

It has been approximately two decades since Georgia has started to work towards European integration more intensively than any other post-Soviet countries (except for the Baltic states). This aspiration is aimed at developing stable political institutions, establishing sustainable security and functional democratic system. Many years ago, Georgia openly announced its commitment to uphold rule of law and establish democratic institutions. By signing the Association Agreement with the EU on June 24, 2014, Georgia undertook the commitment to approximate its legal framework with that of the EU in the areas of human rights, democratization and "good governance". The agreement not only approximated Georgia with the EU, but also reaffirmed its gravitational position both within Eastern Partnership and in terms of pro-western engagement in the South Caucasus.

Georgia's European integration process promoted solid internal positive reforms in terms of governance and democratization. However, while Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations remain at the political level, at the social level we encounter rather increasing, visible fatigue of the European values. The major weakness of the ongoing Europeanization process is the mismatch between Georgian and other European societies, caused by the lack of shared experience and the experience of participating in common public debates. With its rhetoric, Georgia is part of Europe, but in reality, the knowledge and the understanding of the European reality is very much limited.

## Main Discussion Topics

- Georgia's political challenges and prospects in the process of Europeanization;
- Steps ahead to achieve European integration;
- Prospects of Georgia's European integration as seen by the EU member states;
- European integration models of Georgia: regional integration and individual integration.

## Useful sources and literature

1. B. Lebanidze, Georgia's European Integration: What Comes After The Eastern Partnership? GIP, 2017. <http://gip.ge/georgias-european-integration-what-comes-eastern-partnership/>
2. J. Larsen, Good Fences Make Good Neighbors: How Georgia Can Resist Authoritarian Pressure, GIP, 2018. <http://gip.ge/good-fences-make-good-neighbors-georgia-can-resist-authoritarian-pressure/>
3. M. Grigalashvili and M. Sarjveladze, Challenges for Georgia's Visa Liberalization: Political Context and Statistics, GIP, 2018. <http://gip.ge/challenges-georgias-visa-liberalization-political-context-statistics/>
4. B. Lebanidze and E. Panchulidze, Avoiding Gridlock: a Strategy for Georgia to Engage with Eurosceptic Europe, GIP, 2018. <http://gip.ge/avoiding-gridlock-strategy-georgia-engage-eurosceptic-europe/>
5. L. Kakhishvili, Democratic consolidation in Georgia: Why does consensus matter? GIP, 2018. <http://gip.ge/8399/>
6. Expert Comment #9, What does the veto on opening talks with Albania and North Macedonia mean for the European aspirations of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine? GIP, 2019. <http://gip.ge/what-does-the-veto-on-opening-talks-with-albania-and-north-macedonia-mean-for-the-european-aspirations-of-georgia-moldova-and-ukraine/>
7. K. Kakachia, K. Böttger, B. Lebanidze, V. Palm, M. Sarjveladze, Georgian-German Relations in the Context of Euro-Atlantic Integration – How to Align Expectations?, GIP, 2019. <http://gip.ge/georgian-german-relations-in-the-context-of-euro-atlantic-integration-how-to-align-expectations/>
8. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Chronology of major events of EU-Georgia cooperation. <https://bit.ly/3ki8Xle>
9. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. European and Euroatlantic Integration: Useful Information.
10. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Association Agreement. <https://bit.ly/32s6i2j>
11. Information Center on NATO and the EU. Georgia and the EU. <http://old.infocenter.gov.ge/eng-georgia-and-the-european-union/>
12. Information Center on NATO and the EU. EU-Georgia Relations: Facts and Figures. <http://old.infocenter.gov.ge/index.php?newsid=1656>

## 1.2. European neighborhood policy and Eastern Partnership: what do these formats mean for Georgia?

### Training Objective

Training aims at providing the information to the regions with ethnic minority settlements about the Georgia-EU relations, especially about Georgia's cooperation frameworks with the EU. Training will briefly overview EU neighborhood policy, its objectives and development stages, as well as Eastern Partnership initiative and will inform the training participants about Georgia's engagement in these formats: in terms of political, economic and connectivity among societies. Within the framework of the aforementioned components, practical part of the training will be offered assisting the training participants to examine and analyze the major aspects of Eastern Partnership initiatives: (1) Economic development and market opportunities; (2) institutional development and good governance; (3) enhancing interconnectivity, energy efficiency, environmental and climate change; (4) mobility and people-to-people contacts.

### Training Outcomes

At the end of the training, participants will be able to: collect and analyze data/information regarding the topic of training; prepare written paper on the topic of training; prepare a lecture/training based on the material received; freely discuss/talk about the topics discussed during the training; respond to the questions and comments related to the training topic; independently research various areas discussed as a part of EU-Georgia relations; in case of need, independently research/factcheck the information on the role of EU in EU neighborhood policy and Eastern Partnership; prepare practical exercises based on the information received during the training.

### Topic Description

EU neighborhood policy was formulated in 2004 after 10 new states became the member of the Union and it aimed at preventing the creation of new dividing lines in Europe. This policy allows the EU to offer its neighbors privileged relations based on joint commitment to shared values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, principles of market economy and sustainable development). EU neighborhood policy transcends the limits to the existing relations and offers its partners deeper political relations and economic integration through reforms. Indeed, these reforms act as the means to achieve peace, stability and economic wellbeing. EU neighborhood policy covers immediate neighboring countries including Georgia, having land or maritime border with Europe. Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a collective political initiative aimed at deepening and strengthening relations among the EU, its member states and its six neighbors including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Within this framework, the EU is guided by the EU global strategy and updated EU neighborhood policy, which is focused on the stability and increasing sustainability of Eastern neighbors. This cooperation framework ensures mutual commitment to provide tangible results to the population living in the region. Per the decision made in Riga in 2015 during the Eastern Partnership Summit, to achieve these objectives, cooperation is based on four major priority areas: economic development and market capabilities; institutional development and good governance; enhancing interconnectivity, energy efficiency, environmental and climate change; mobility and people-to-people contacts. Additionally, there are structural interactions in place with the involvement of civil society organizations to ensure gender equality and the elimination of discrimination as well as more precise and individual strategic communication policy.

## Main Discussion Topics

- Formats of EU-Georgia cooperation
- European neighborhood policy
- Eastern Partnership policy

## Useful Sources

1. M. Emerson and T. Kovziridze, Georgia and EU: Short Guide. <http://www.dcfta.gov.ge/public/filemanager/publications/pub2.pdf>
2. EU Neighbours. The Eastern Partnership beyond 2020: Reinforcing Resilience – an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all. [https://www.euneighbours.eu/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/EaP%20joint%20communication\\_factsheet4\\_EN\\_0.pdf](https://www.euneighbours.eu/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/EaP%20joint%20communication_factsheet4_EN_0.pdf)
3. EU4Business. Eastern Partnership. <https://eu4business.eu/eastern-partnership>
4. B. Lebanidze and E. Panchulidze, Avoiding Gridlock: a Strategy for Georgia to Engage with Eurosceptic Europe, GIP, 2018. <http://gip.ge/avoiding-gridlock-strategy-georgia-engage-eurosceptic-europe/>



## TRAINING PROGRAM

### TOPIC 2: ETHNIC MINORITIES AND THE EU

## 2.1. Minority rights and obligations in the context of European policy

### Training Objective

Training aims at familiarizing participants with the general rights of ethnic and national minorities, as well as the role and the place of minorities in the context of European policy, the objectives of European policy on ethnic minority rights protection and integration and the international and local commitments of the country within European institutions in the process of integration. Training also aims at presenting ethnic and national minority landscape and examining their challenges.

### Training Outcomes

At the end of the training, participants will be able to identify minorities in Georgia and across the Europe, determine their needs and problems, assess the implemented measures and programs aimed at protecting minority rights. Participants will become familiar with the specific international mechanisms for minority protection and their integration, the commitments undertaken by Georgia in this area and how are they being fulfilled. Training participants will also be able to fully comprehend the diverse ethnic composition of Georgia, including the information on settlement patterns for specific ethnic groups and relevant statistical information.

### Topic Description

Georgia is a multi-ethnic country. According to the latest census conducted in 2014, ethnic minorities make up approximately 13.2% of the general population. The largest groups among them include Azerbaijani population (6.2%) and Armenian population (4.5%), densely populated in the Southern part of the country (Kvemo-Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti region). The remaining ethnic minority population do not make up compact settlements and are populated across different regions and urban centers. Considering this diversity, the country is implementing the policy focused on minority protection and integration, which is also in line with Georgia's European policy. For the EU, as well as for other European institutions, minority rights are one of the fundamental values. Keeping this in mind, training will be focused on four major topics – what is the international legal definition of minorities, who are considered to be national minorities; how are the minority rights defined in Europe and what obligations do European institutions impose; what are the domestic commitments ensuring minority protection and diversity management; international legal mechanisms for minority protection and their application in Georgia.

### Main Discussion Topics

- International legal definition of the concept of minorities (how are ethnic and national minorities defined, what is the difference between these two concepts, what are the international models for ethnic minority rights protection and their integration. Models will be discussed by illustrating the experience and political traditions of different countries);
- Minorities in Georgia (ethnic and national minority composition in Georgia, statistical data and settlement areas, state policy towards minorities, how are minorities perceived by the state and which international model of minority policy does it approximate to);

- International mechanisms for managing and implementing minority policy. (This part of the training will focus on the essence of international European mechanisms and their use. It will present the relevant regulations of Council of Europe, OSCE and the EU in details, covering the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, OSCE thematic recommendations on minority protection and integration. Training will include discussions on the objectives and purpose of each of the international mechanism, as well as the practical phases and regulations ensuring practical implementation of these objectives in the participant states);
- International and domestic commitments undertaken by Georgia in the areas of minority rights protection and integration; how are these commitments fulfilled, what kind of reporting is in place in relation to international mechanisms and what are the roles and functions of local, Georgian civil society organizations in this process.

### Useful Sources

1. Minority Management Policy: Practical Manual. European Center for Minority Issues, Tbilisi 2012;
2. Overview of International Standards on Ethnic Minority Rights – Manual. The Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC), 2019;
3. Ethnic minority integration in Georgia. Policy Briefs. Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, 2017;
4. OSCE Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life and explanatory note, September 1999;
5. Cartographic material prepared by the Center for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism and interactive map of Georgia's ethnic diversity <http://csem.ge/interactivemap/>
6. Minority Issues in Europe: Rights, Concepts, Policy. Edited by Tove H. Malloy. Frank & Timme 2013;
7. Minority Issues Mainstreaming in the South Caucasus. A Practical Guide. European Centre for Minority Issues 2011;
8. The Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies. OSCE HCNM, November 2012;
9. Jean-Marie Woehrling. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. A Critical Commentary. Council of Europe Publishing 2005;
10. Filling the Frame – Five Years of Monitoring the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Council of Europe Publishing 2004.



## TRAINING PROGRAM

### TOPIC 3: EU-GEORGIA PROGRAMS



## 3.1. Free trade with the EU

### Training Objective

Training aims at familiarizing the participants with the advantages provided by the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the EU and Georgia; main requirements that products should meet to be exported on the EU market – tariff (DCFTA exceptions) and nontariff barriers; provide the participants with skills to research the trade dynamics and assess the sectors with export potential to EU market and be able to produce required documents for export on the EU market.

### Training Outcomes

At the end of the training the participants will be able to: assess the implementation of DCFTA; utilize the preferences/benefits of DCFTA; substantiate the claim on Georgian origin of goods (to activate preferential regime); assess quality infrastructure requirements; segmenting EU market and elaborating the strategy to enter the specific market; identify target markets through researching statistical information and identify competitors; assess the entire value chain of export on EU market.

### Topic Description

Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) ensures preferential trade regime for Georgia and creates opportunities to increase the access to the market between Georgia and the EU, which is based on harmonized regulations. More specifically, (DCFTA) enables Georgian producers to place their product on EU single market – the largest market in the world – without tariff barriers and quotas. The implementation of DCFTA requires Georgia to approximate its sanitary and phytosanitary legal framework to that of the EU, which means that every Georgian producer within the selected sector has to meet the new requirements. This will not only improve the quality of the product and make it safe for the customer, but will also prepare the product for the export worldwide.

The main challenge of exporting Georgian products on the EU single market is the incompatibility with the highest standards of the EU and deficient production cycle, which considering the nontariff barriers, increases the cost of Georgian products and does not contribute to the significant increase in exports. Exporting to the EU single market, characterized with high purchase power uniting over 502 million potential customers, requires the following preconditions: despite DCFTA coming into force, EU market is only open for the product that meets the internal regulations of EU market.

### Main Discussion Topics

- Georgia's trade policy (trade agreements and regimes, trade tariff and non-tariff barriers);
- Georgia-EU export dynamics (trade statistics, harmonized product coding system, dynamics of export goods, sectors with the potential to be exported to the EU single market);
- Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area – the essence of the agreement, major areas, exceptions, quality infrastructure, implementation of DCFTA in Georgia;
- How can we benefit from DCFTA? (which requirements should the product meet, what procedures should be passed to enter the EU market, how can interested individuals get involved).

## Useful Sources

1. Free trade with the EU. <http://www.dcfra.gov.ge/en/home>
2. In line with Association [agreement] <http://asocireba.ge/>
3. Interactive roadmap to Association Agreement. <http://aa.ge/en/>
4. Deepening the relations between the EU and Georgia: what, why and how?  
[http://www.3dcftas.eu/system/tdf/GEO%20Handbook%202nd\\_GEO%20ver.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=497&force](http://www.3dcftas.eu/system/tdf/GEO%20Handbook%202nd_GEO%20ver.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=497&force)
5. Everything on the Association Agreement with the EU. <http://eugeorgia.info/ka/news/soflis-meurneoba/3/>
6. Kalo. <https://kalo.ge/videos>
7. Text of the Association Agreement (in Georgian, Abkhazian, Ossetian, Azerbaijani, Armenian and English languages). <http://www.parliament.ge/ge/gavigot-meti-evrokavshirtan-asocirebis-shetanxmebis-shesaxeb/associationagreement1>

## 3.2. Visa free travel in the EU and Schengen zone states

### Training Objective

The training aims at raising awareness among the participants on migration-related topics between Georgia and the EU. Additionally, the participants will be provided with comprehensive qualitative and quantitative information on visa-free regime with the EU. The training will cover the reforms related to visa liberalization action plan and benefits and opportunities provided by the visa free regime for Georgian citizens. As a result of the training, the participants will improve necessary skills and be able to independently research relevant information of visa free travel. Increasing the awareness will also ensure that the participants will become less vulnerable to the anti-Western propaganda and be able to spread the knowledge and information received within wider communities. Training will also focus on the impact of COVID-19 on visa free travel regime between the EU and Georgia.

### Training Outcomes

At the end of the training the participants will be able to find and analyze quantitative and qualitative information that relates to the EU-Georgia migration policy and visa free travel. Training participants will also be able to counter anti-Western propaganda and anti-liberal sentiments within various layers of the society based on the information received. Training participants will develop relevant skills to work on the statistical information and reports related to the EU migration policy and visa free travel. They will also be able to contribute to the information campaigns on visa free travel conducted across the country, which on its end, will reduce irregular (so called illegal) migration in the EU and minimize the possibility to use the visa suspension mechanism. Training may have multiplier effect, which means that the training participants will pass the knowledge within their communities and help to further spread the information.

### Topic Description

Since 2017, Georgian citizens with the biometric passports are able to travel visa free for short-term visits (up to 90 days) in the EU and Schengen zone countries. Prior to this EU decision, Georgia's visa liberalization action plan had been published, which requires the implementation of reforms related to migration, security, justice and protection of human rights and sustaining the outcomes of the reforms. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, up to a million of Georgian citizens had benefited from the visa free travel in the EU and Schengen zone countries. Visa liberalization action plan is divided into four blocks and covers the reforms on border management, protection of equality, personal information, human rights and basic freedoms, fight against corruption and other areas. In 2014-2017 Georgia fully implemented the reforms outlined in the visa liberalization action plan that acted as a pre-condition for introducing short-term visa free travel regime.

Despite the implemented reforms, EU continues to monitor the irreversibility of reforms implemented by Georgia and publishes annual "Visa Suspension Mechanism" report. Report introduces the achieved results, as well as the challenges related to Georgian organized crime groups and unfounded asylum seekers in the EU and Schengen zone countries. It is important to note that increasing number of Georgians are seeking asylum in the EU and Schengen zone states. In 2019 this number reached 21 570 of Georgian asylum seekers, which presents a three times increase over the past 9 years. Therefore, visa free travel is not permanent and may be reviewed in accordance to the conditions outlined in the visa suspension mechanism adopted by the EU.

## Main Discussion Topics

- Georgia-EU relations in the context of migration policy
- Visa Facilitation Agreement
- Readmission Agreement
- Visa Liberalization Action Plan
- Canceling short-term visas and its practical outcomes
- Labor migration
- Circular migration
- Challenges related to asylum seekers
- Visa free travel suspension mechanism
- Impact of COVID-19 on EU-Georgia migration policy and practice
- Statistical data and the EU reports

## Useful Sources

1. European Border and Coast Guard Agency [www.frontex.europa.eu](http://www.frontex.europa.eu)
2. Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs <https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/>
3. European Asylum Support Office <https://www.easo.europa.eu/>
4. State Commission on Migration Issues [http://migration.commission.ge/index.php?article\\_id=59&clang=1](http://migration.commission.ge/index.php?article_id=59&clang=1)
5. Migration Strategy 2016-2020 of Georgia [http://migration.commission.ge/files/migration\\_strategy\\_2016-2020\\_1.pdf](http://migration.commission.ge/files/migration_strategy_2016-2020_1.pdf)
6. Visa Liberalization Action Plan [http://migration.commission.ge/files/savizo-liberalizaciis-samoqmedo-gegma\\_qartulad.pdf](http://migration.commission.ge/files/savizo-liberalizaciis-samoqmedo-gegma_qartulad.pdf)
7. Agreement between the European Union and Georgia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas <http://migration.commission.ge/files/1.pdf>
8. Agreement between the European Union and Georgia on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation <http://migration.commission.ge/files/readmission.pdf>
9. Third Report (10/07/2020) Under the Visa Suspension Mechanism <https://bit.ly/2OGzgo7>
10. Working Document of the European Commission's Third Report Under the Visa Suspension Mechanism <https://bit.ly/2ZPvwqO>
11. "What do we need for the visa free travel – everything we need to know before the travel" <https://bit.ly/39R52s3>

### 3.3. Educational programs with the EU

#### Training Objective

Training aims at familiarizing the audience with the opportunities provided within the framework of Erasmus programs, how to study and participate in various activities financed through the stipends. During the course of the training, participants will also become familiar with internal procedures for filling out the application, be among the students receiving the financial support and analyze the positive aspects of participating in the Erasmus program.

#### Training Outcome

At the end of the training the participants will be able to: research European Solidarity Corp vacancies and independently fill out the application; know the who to address to during the exchange program and what procedures they need to go through; know how to study abroad on Master degree programs after graduating from the university; know where to look for the information about the Erasmus programs; know who to ask the questions and for the support about Erasmus program; know how to write letter of motivation and CV; know which main criteria should be met to participate in each program.

#### Topic Description

Erasmus+ is an EU grant program, that implements projects in the areas of education, trainings, youth and sports. In the course of the training, I will discuss three major programs:

**International Credit Mobility – ICM** – short term exchange program for higher education institution students and academic/administrative staff. Exchange programs are implemented within the framework of the agreement signed between the Georgian and European (program participant states) universities. Participant should be a Bachelors, Master or Doctoral student to be involved in the International Credit Mobility.

**Full Master programs in the European universities – joint Master programs** – joint program initiated by a couple of the European universities. Applicant independently selects the program after finishing the Bachelor's degree in his/her own or in another country. Applicant individually sends the application directly to the university coordinating the program. Candidate is selected based on a multiple criterion.

**European Solidarity Corp** – program aims at enhancing solidarity, as a value, through volunteerism and increase the involvement of youth in various activities. As a part of the program, the participant goes abroad from 2 months to 1 year, works as a volunteer in an organization selected in advance and receives the experience in the sphere of his/her interest.

#### Main Discussion topics

- What does Erasmus mean and what are the opportunities provided by the Erasmus programs
- Discussing three programs: Exchange semesters, Master programs, European Solidarity Corps
- Recommendations and considerations before filling out the application.

#### Useful Sources

1. The National Erasmus+ Office Georgia. <http://erasmusplus.org.ge/en>
2. Masters Program Catalogue [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/emjmd-catalogue\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/emjmd-catalogue_en)
3. Erasmus Student Network Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/ESN.Tbilisi.ISU/>
4. ESN Tbilisi YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzRSAPhwKCottmUnueHOcDQ>
5. Information on ESC. [https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/faq\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/faq_en)



ANNEX 1:

**TRAINING CYCLE**

- Evaluation from the participants
- Evaluating participants and the course
- Identifying potential changes
- Determining the needs of participants
- Determining the objectives of the organization
- Determining the recommended content
- Selecting the optimal option



- Holding a dynamic training
- Adjusting to the needs of the participants
- Determining the general content of the training
- Determining the content of each area
- Dividing up into individual sessions
- Selecting methods
- Preparing material



**ANNEX 2:**

**TRAINING EVALUATION FORM**



## Evaluation Form

**Training Topic**

**Training Venue**

**Training Date**

**Name of the Trainer**

In order to maintain a high standard of the training, your evaluation is important for us. Please, take couple of minutes and answer the following questions.

Circle the relevant number on the scale presented below

### Content

#### 1. Material was presented in a clear and organized manner

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

#### 2. Training corresponds to the defined goals and objectives

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

#### 3. The goals of my participation in the training was achieved

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

#### 4. As a result of the training my knowledge of the [name of the topic] was deepened

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

#### 5. I will use the information received in future

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

## Trainer

### 1. Trainer was well prepared

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

### 2. Trainer presented the material in a clear manner

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

### 3. Trainer gave satisfactory answers to the questions

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

### 4. Trainer ensured active involvement of the participants in discussions

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

## Organization

### 1. Training was well organized with all the required inventory

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

### 2. Training venue was comfortable

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

### 3. The duration of the training and breaks were well-balanced

1 Fully Disagree      2      3      4      5 Fully Agree

**What did you like the most in the training?**

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**How can the training be improved?**

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**How will you use the knowledge received during the training in the future?**

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**Additional Comments**

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**ANNEX 3:**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRAINERS**

**While planning and in the course of the training, trainer should consider the following circumstances**

- Ensure that theoretical and practical information are balanced in the material provided;
- Consider individual needs and interests of the participants while planning and holding the training;
- Make sure that the planned sessions will help the participants to achieve the results. To do so, identify the participants and their needs and interests in advance;
- Use mixed sessions while planning the training, including: introduction, presenting the rules, feedback session, conclusion;
- List the number of the material realistically to ensure that the material prepared does not go over the pre-determined time;
- Be flexible and prepared to skip or allocate more time for certain topics in case this particular topic is hard to understand for the participants;
- Adjust the methods of training to your strongest skills to ensure the effectiveness of the training;
- Use mixed methods of providing information to consider different styles of learning of the participants and therefore to ensure their active engagement in the course of the training.
- Provide additional material that the participants require or request;
- Use simple and clear language while holding the training and in the material provided;
- Always keep in mind the training objective and try not to divert from the main topics. However, if you notice that some of the topics or the method of training is not effective among participants, be flexible and ready for changes.



## ANNEX 4:

# ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR TRAINING

## 1.1. Europeanization of Georgia's foreign policy: challenges and perspectives

### Activity 1: Introduction – General discussion on Georgia's European integration

In the first part of the training, participants will receive basic information on the process of Georgia's European integration, its goals and importance in the country's foreign policy. More specifically, participants will become familiar with the dynamics of Georgia-EU relations over the years, including the important agreements (Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area), steps taken by the Georgian government in this process and the benefits received. During this phase, participants will also become familiar with the public attitudes towards the EU.

### Activity 2: Information Session

#### Political challenges and perspectives of Georgia in the context of Europeanization

This part of the training will discuss the challenges faced by Georgia in the process of Europeanization. Particular attention will be paid to the existing challenges at the social level since the European integration process is characterized by the increasing fatigue by the European values among the Georgian public. As a supporting material for this discussion, statistical data on public attitudes on European integration and Europeanization will be analyzed (surveys by Caucasus Barometer, NDI and IRI). Another important challenge emphasized during the training is the gap between Georgian and European societies caused by the lack of interaction and knowledge among them. In addition to the challenges, this part of the training will familiarize participants with the prospects of Georgia's Europeanization. Despite the fact that the country is facing multiple challenges, it works harder towards the European integration than many other post-Soviet states and tries to maintain the gravitational position within the framework of the EU Eastern Partnership initiative.

#### Steps taken towards the European integration

In the context of Europeanization, discussions on Georgia's challenges and prospects will familiarize the participants with the measures taken by the country towards the European integration. More specifically, information will be provided to the participants on bilateral and multilateral political agreements signed within the framework of EU-Georgia cooperation, progress achieved by Georgia in terms of trade with the EU, visa free regime and awareness raising programs about the EU among the Georgian population. Participants will also receive the information on the reforms implemented to ensure good governance and democratization as a part of the process of European integration.

#### Georgia's European integration prospect as seen by the EU member states

This part of the training will enable the participants to look at Georgia's prospects of European integration from a different lens and get familiar with the views of EU member states in these regards; more specifically, how do EU member states view Georgia and its European integration and Europeanization, what are their perceptions and expectations and whether or not they match with the those in Georgia. Similar discussion is important because of the lack of knowledge of the European reality and the European perceptions in Georgia.

## **Various Models of Georgia's European Integration**

This part of the training covers both theoretical and practical elements since the participants will become familiar with various models of Georgia's European integration and be able to conduct a comparative analysis on the differences and similarities between these models. Participants will also be able to discuss the models most effective for Georgia. Two models will be emphasized: regional and individual integration and this part of the training will enable the participants to discuss them in comparative terms.

### **Activity 3: Conclusion – Group work**

At the end of the training participants will be divided into smaller groups to sum up the information received during the course of the training and to identify the major topics. Participants will also be provided with additional online resources that would enable them to get more information on the process of Georgia's European integration, its achievements and challenges.

## **1.2. The EU neighborhood policy and Eastern Partnership: what do similar formats mean for Georgia**

### **Activity 1. Discussion on EU Neighborhood Policy**

This part of the training will provide the information to the participants on the training objectives, structure and outcomes. Introduction of the training will cover EU neighborhood policy, its history, geopolitical objectives and importance. During this part of the training, participants learn what it means for Georgia to be the part of the European neighborhood policy.

### **Activity 2: Information Session/Discussion – "Eastern Partnership"**

This part of the training will discuss the EU Eastern Partnership Format. More specifically the processes contributing to the creation of this format and the initiating EU member states. The training will also cover the essence of the format, participant countries including Georgia and the objectives served by this initiative. Training will familiarize the participants with the importance of Georgia's participation in the Eastern Partnership format in terms of political, economic, people-to-people relations.

### **Activity 3: Information Session/Discussion – "the future of Eastern Partnership"**

This part of the training will discuss the Eastern Partnership summits and the development phases of the format, as well as the Eastern Partnership summit planned for March 2021 and its prospects. Training participants will understand the differences between Eastern Partnership states. The discussion will be focused on political aspirations of and measures implemented by Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (EaP+) to achieve the goal of the EU membership. In the end, this part of the training will overview the financial assistance provided by the EU to the Eastern Partnership states and especially to Georgia in support of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Activity 4: Practical Exercise

This component will include practical exercise to support the training participants in examining and analyzing the major areas of Eastern Partnership initiative: (1) economic development and market opportunities; (2) institutional development and good governance; (3) enhancing interconnectivity, energy efficiency, environmental and climate change; (4) mobility and people-to-people contacts. At first, the participants will be provided with the information about the aforementioned areas; later, they will be divided into groups (according to the number of the participants) and will be given a task to correspond the reforms implemented by Georgia to the major areas of the initiative.

### Activity 5: Conclusion

The concluding part of the training will allow the participants to ask questions to the trainer to receive additional information and to sum up the information received during the training. At the end of the training, participants will be provided with the information on useful sources and especially on the opportunities offered to the Georgian youth through the Eastern Partnership format.

## 2.1. Minority rights and obligations in the context of European policy

### Introduction: Defining Minorities

*The session covers lecture and discussion*

There is a heterogenous definition of ethnic and national minorities. During this part of the training, participants will become familiar with the international legal definition of minorities; more specifically, how are the ethnic and national minorities defined, what are the differences between these two concepts, what international models are in place for minority rights protection and integration. Models will be discussed by illustrating the experience and political traditions of different countries. Despite the heterogenous definition, majority of the countries share the working version elaborated in 1975: "A group numerically inferior to the rest of the population of a State, in a non-dominant position, whose members - being nationals of the State - possess ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics differing from those of the rest of the population and show, if only implicitly, a sense of solidarity, directed towards preserving their culture, traditions, religion or language".

### Minorities in Georgia

*The session covers lecture and discussion*

This part of the training discusses the state of ethnic and national minorities in Georgia. More specifically, the statistical data and settlement areas, as well as the state's perception of minorities and the international model approximating to Georgia's minority policy. The existing legal framework of Georgia does not provide a definition for "minority". According to the major document outlining the minority integration policy – The National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration, it is the right of the minorities to decide if they want to be treated as minorities. Therefore, according to the current approach in Georgia, individuals, excluding ethnically Georgians, are considered to be minorities if they consider themselves belonging to a minority group, regardless of the size of the group or the duration they have lived in the country.

## **European mechanisms of managing minority policy**

*The session covers lecture and discussion*

This part of the training will focus on the essence of European international mechanisms and their use. The training will present the relevant regulations of European Council, OSCE and the EU in details. The topics will cover: the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, OSCE thematic recommendations on minority protection and integration. Training will discuss the main objectives and purpose of each of the international mechanism as well as the practical stages and regulations ensuring the practical implementation of these objectives among participant nations.

At this stage Georgia only participates in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The Convention was adopted by the European Council in 1995. It is a versatile document that establishes legal obligations and relates to the protection of national minorities in general. It aims at protecting the rights of the national minorities residing in the signatory states. It also aims at supporting comprehensive and actual equality of national minorities by creating conditions allowing them to maintain and develop their culture and identity. Principles guaranteed by the Convention are as follows: political and social involvement of minorities, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, freedom of thought, belief and religion, access to media, right to education, etc.

Even though the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages - the second, legally binding document of the European Council is not signed by Georgia, European Council, through its diplomatic mission and the secretariat in Brussels, is actively cooperating with the Government of Georgia and other research centers to prepare ratification document in a timely manner.

In addition to these two European Council documents, obligations undertaken within the framework of OSCE is another important international mechanism. More specifically, it refers to the mandate of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. The structure was established in 1992 in OSCE. It carries diplomatic responsibilities and works on conflict prevention and early warning. Recommendations of High Commissioner on National Minorities of OSCE are not legally binding for the states and there is no system in place to monitor their implementation. However, these recommendations are mandatory for the OSCE member states in political terms and play an important role of normative leverage for the states that aspire to join the EU.

### **Domestic legal commitments taken by Georgia**

*The session covers lecture and discussion*

This part of the training will discuss the domestic commitments undertaken by Georgia in terms of minority protection and integration and the mechanisms for their implementation; the type of reporting mechanism and the roles and functions of local, Georgian civil society organizations.

Georgia's internal legal framework and the set of legal norms holds the government liable in relation to minorities. Since 2009, the main regulatory document for minority policy has been the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration and action plan. State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality of Georgia is the main agency responsible for the implementation of the concept. The concept is based on the principle of equality and "more diversity, more integration" approach. The main goal of the document is to protect cultural values and the identity of each member of the society. The strategic document outlines 4 main areas: ensuring equal and inclusive participation in civil and political life, equal social and economic conditions and opportunities; providing quality education and improving official language skills; preserving the culture of ethnic minorities and ensuring tolerant environment.

The strategy action plan outlines specific activities for the five-year period indicating responsible institutions. The strategy also sets out an annual action plan that covers mechanisms with relevant assessments and reports. The strategy facilitates more interaction and relation with the majority, since civic integration encompasses the engagement of the entire society and every member of the society. With this strategy, the government undertakes the commitment to protect educational and legal interests of small and vulnerable ethnic minorities and allow courses of their native languages in higher education institutions.

Training will present the challenges of implementing internal action plans and strategies.

### **Training Conclusion**

At the end of the training, the participants will receive detailed information on the useful sources on minorities. Training will also sum up the existing approaches of the Government and other actors towards the minorities in Georgia and will analyze the state of minorities in Georgia in the context of European policy.

## **3.1. Free trade with the EU**

### **Activity 1 – Discussion on trade policy**

#### **Activity 2 – Information session/explanatory method**

The session is based on the discussion around the given topic. Trainer gives a specific example while presenting the material, which is being examined during the discussion revolving around the topic.

As of today, Georgia has one of the most liberal foreign trade policy that implies simplified foreign trade regime and customs procedures, low import tariffs and minimal nontariff regulations: Georgia does not impose quotas on imports and exports; export and re-export from Georgia is free from custom fees; export is not taxed with VAT and excise tax (these fees are paid in the country of final destination); on around 80% of products, import tax is 0%, while the rest is taxed with 5% and 12% ad valorem fee and specific duty (alcoholic beverages and passenger cars).

#### Trade agreements and regimes:

##### **Regular (basic):**

- With countries not benefiting from preferential trade regime on the basis of bilateral or multilateral agreements with Georgia;
- Preferential trade relations arising from the membership of international organization.

##### **Preferential:**

- Most Favoured Nation (MFN) – Most of Georgia's trade partners are the members of World Trade Organization (WTO) and therefore, trading with WTO member states (164 states) is based on MFN regime. This implies differential, lower tariffs for WTO member states.
- Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) – The idea behind GSP is to enable economically well-developed countries to support economically weak states with exports. For these ends, developed countries unilaterally grant trade privileges for foreign trade (without receiving reciprocal privileges) to the beneficiaries of GSO. "GSP+" – an additional preferential scheme of GSP has been enacted on July 1, 2005 enabling a unilateral decrease or annulling trade tariffs. This means that approximately 7200 products originated in Georgia is exported to GSP states free of customs duties.
- Free trade regimes: (members of Commonwealth of Independent States (multilateral), Turkey (bilateral), EFTA (Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein) – covers trade in goods, DCFTA, with China and Hong Kong) – trade without tariff barriers, annulling various bureaucratic barriers (with the exception of nontariff barriers).

## Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area - DCFTA

What does Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) imply? Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area provides preferential trade regime to the country and creates opportunities to increase the access to the market between the EU and Georgia, which is based on the harmonization of regulations between the two parties. More specifically, DCFTA enables the Georgian producers to place their products on the EU single market – one of the largest markets in the world – without tariff barriers and quotas.

### Conditions for trade in goods:

**Export:** none of the parties have the right to introduce or keep customs or other equivalent duties on the export in goods.

### **Import:**

- In Georgia: with the Agreement coming into force, custom duties were waived for products originating in the EU to be imported in Georgia.
- In the EU: with the Agreement coming into force, custom duties were waived for products originating from Georgia to be imported to the EU. Additionally, following applies to some of the products imported to the EU from Georgia:

### **Quotas on garlic (annual import quota – 220 tonnes);**

**The EU "entry price" (ad valorem free)** – the EU "entry price" on 28 different types of products (0.3% of the entire production) is in effect, which implies the introduction of minimal cost for the import of these products. With the Agreement coming into force, ad valorem component of the entry price (percentage of custom duty) was annulled, keeping in place only specific custom duties. When importing into the EU, in case the invoice price of the goods originating from Georgia is lower than the EU-enacted fixed fee, the importer will pay the specific custom fee. However, if the product carries a matching or higher price, the importer will be waived from these fees.

**Anti-Circumvention Mechanism** – 277 varieties of agriculture and food processing products (3% of the total production) are subject to anti-circumvention mechanism. When the import of one or more products, subject to anti-circumvention mechanism, reaches 70% of the fixed threshold from the start of the calendar year, European Commission notifies the Government of Georgia on the import amount of given products.

- Georgia can present arguments to the EU (e.g. about the increase in production, harvest abundance, etc.) on the possible grounds for exceeding the import limit.
- In this case Georgia will be able to proceed with importing products exceeding the quantity of the anti-circumvention mechanism without EU customs duties.

Unlike other free trade agreements signed by Georgia, DCFTA implies the liberalization of trade both in goods and in services. Additionally, DCFTA covers a wide spectrum of trade-related matters (e.g. food safety, competition policy, protection of intellectual rights, financial services, etc.) and ensures the approximation of Georgian trade-related legal framework to that of the EU.

**DCFTA covers the following chapters:**

- Trade in Goods
- Trade Remedies
- Technical Barriers to Trade, Standardization, Metrology, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- Customs and Trade Facilitation
- Establishment, Trade in Services and Electronic Commerce
- Current Payments and Movement of Capital
- Public Procurement
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Competition
- Trade-Related Energy Provisions
- Transparency
- Trade and Sustainable Development
- Dispute Settlement
- General Provisions on Approximation

**Activity 3: Group Work**

The trainer presents the participants various instruments of trade dynamics and gives them a group work. Group members select products with export potential, search for the commodity code, look for the dynamics of past years in the country of destination, as well as major tariff and nontariff requirements.

## 3.2. Visa free travel in the EU and Schengen states

**Introduction: Information Session**

This part of the training provides the participants with the information on migration of Georgian citizens to the EU, their international protection and illegal migration. The information covers the legal framework of migration in Georgia and the EU and its implementation. Training will cover the role of migration in the country's economy (statistics of remittances and their share in foreign direct investment and Gross Domestic Product). Additionally, training will present a short historical overview describing Georgia-EU relations in terms of migration (e.g. visa facilitation, readmission, circular migration schemes, etc.). Introduction also includes the information on labor migration.

**Visa Liberalization – information session**

This part of the training overviews the visa liberalization process and covers the period starting from the initiation of the visa dialogue to granting visa free travel. During the course of this part of the training, the trainer and the participants will interact on topics such as the activities outlined in the visa liberalization action plan and their implementation. The training will present specific examples and their impact on the country's democratization process (e.g. adopting and improving the laws on the protection of personal information; adopting anti-discrimination legislation and its need; improvement of the infrastructure on the so-called "green border"; document security, etc.). Visa free travel and its impact on the population living on the so-called occupied territories.

## **Legal employment in the EU and Schengen zone countries - discussion**

The third part of the training covers the legal mechanisms of employment in the EU and Schengen zone states. More specifically, the discussion will cover the existing schemes of circular migration and their implementation in practice. It will also touch upon the existing legal framework. In terms of labor migration, non-EU states will also be emphasized (e.g. Turkey and Russia). Additionally, the discussion will cover the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on labor migration and indirect effects on the country's economy.

## **Practical Information – Post-visa liberalization in the EU and Schengen zone states – discussion**

This part of training will provide the participants with the information on the conditions under which the Georgian citizens are authorized to cross the EU and Schengen zone state borders. More specifically, the participants will receive the information on the documents required to cross the border. This part will also discuss the impact of visa free travel on the countries of origin and final destination.

## **Conclusion: information session and discussion**

The last part of the training will sum up the information and the skills provided to the participants during the course of the training. Additionally, the participants will receive the information on useful sources to consult with in case of interest. The discussion will also cover the visa liberalization suspension mechanisms and the risks associated with its enactment.

## **3.3. Education programs with the EU**

### **Introduction**

Introducing participants, presenting training objectives and defining participants' expectations. Preparing the grounds for the theoretical part on Erasmus program through Q&A session.

### **International Credit Mobility – ICM**

*Information session and energizer*

International Credit Mobility – short-term exchange program for the students and academic/administrative staff of higher education institutions. Exchange programs are held within the framework of the partnership agreements between the Georgian and European (participant countries) universities. Student should be studying at the Bachelor, Master or Doctoral levels to be able to participate in International Credit Mobility program. At first the student goes through the internal selection process in his/her university and then at the host university. Every student is able to receive grant for educational purposes for up to 12 months in total (at each phase). Student must be registered in higher education institution and should be enrolled in the program that will eventually grant it the academic degree or other higher education qualification (including doctoral degree). As a part of the mobility, the program will cover education and travel costs. Besides, the student will be paid a stipend between 800-900 Euros, depending on the host country.

**Documents required for mobility:**

- CV preferably in Europass format
- Proof of the student status
- Language certificate (in some cases the tests are given by the university)
- Motivation letter
- The list of subjects covered, indicating credits and assessments (issued by the university)
- In some cases, the university may require a reference letter from the instructors

**Joint Master Degree Programs (JMD)***Information session and work in couples*

Joint Master Degree program is the program jointly elaborated by the universities of a number of European countries. The applicant selects the program independently after graduating with the BA degree. Applicant individually applies for the program at the university coordinating the program. Candidate is selected based on a number of criteria:

**Who can participate in the program?**

- Anyone with a BA diploma (or at the final stage of the BA program)
- There is no age limit
- Active student status is not required
- Erasmus+ stipend received during BA or Master program is not a restriction

The course is held in at least two European universities participating in the Master program (travel within Europe is reimbursed by the program). Master program may provide 120, 90 or 60 ECTS credits, therefore the duration of the program may vary from one to two years. After finishing the Master program, joint or multiple academic degrees are granted. National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement is responsible for recognizing the academic degree granted in another country.

**Rules of participation:**

- An applicant can simultaneously apply to up to three programs at most (per application period).
- Applicant applies individually at the university coordinating the program (contact information is given on the web page of a specific program). Application is filled out online. Every detail should be clarified with the coordinating university, as the rules of the application process may vary from program to program.

**It is important to note that:**

- Despite common characteristics, every program has individual requirements – it is important to double check the details on the program web page. Additionally, get in touch with the point of contact for the program (information can be found on the program web page).
- The call for application for the program is announced twice – once for the scholarship seekers and once for those, who do not seek scholarship and plans on self-financing. Deadlines may vary.
- We do not/cannot publish the deadlines for applications for individual Master programs (more than 100 program), therefore applicants should track the program web pages themselves.
- In general, the call is announced in fall and three to five months is allocated to prepare the necessary documentation. Deadline for applications are in late fall or January-March of the following year. Notification on the scholarship award is received in late May. Studies begin in August-October (depending on the program).

**Required documentation for the program:**

- Motivation letter
- Application form
- English language certificate (IELTS, TOEFL...)
- Reference letter (from various areas of expertise)
- CV
- Diplomas + Diploma annexes
- Other documents as required by the program.

**Practical Aspect: How to write motivation letter and CV****European Solidarity Corps***Information Session*

The goal of the European Solidarity Corps is to support solidarity, as a value, through volunteerism and increase the engagement of youth in various activities. Candidates selected for the program go abroad for the period of 2 months to 1 year, do volunteer work in the organization selected in advance and gains the experience in the field he/she is most interested in. European Solidarity Corps covers the following programs: volunteerism, solidarity projects, internship, employment.

Georgian citizens can only register and participate in ESC volunteer activities.

Individuals who have participated in the EVS – program prior to ESC – for more than two months are no longer eligible to participate in ESC. Young people aged 18-30 can participate in projects from 2 to 12 months. Participants will do volunteer work in various organizations that can be both - private or public.

Listed below are the areas you will become part of as a volunteer for ESC program. While filling out the application, you can find the information on what the project is about for each of the listed programs:





If you decide to participate in ESC program, you will need host (announcing vacancy) as well as sending organization (from Georgia).

**Responsibilities of sending, supporting organization:**

- Pre-departure preparation/training, consultation
- Acting as an intermediary between the host organization and the applicant
- Providing visa, insurance and other documents.

**Responsibilities of receiving, host organization:**

- Selecting volunteer, communication with him/her
- Providing monthly income, housing and other miscellaneous expenses
- Supporting volunteer at every stage of the project

**Conclusion: wrap up and general discussions**

