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The European Union
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საქართველოს შიდასაზღვრო ტერიტორიების
დასახლების, შრომის, ჯანდაცვის და სოციალური
კითხვების სამსახური

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On October 18, 2019, in the framework of the EU-supported Employment Shuttle and VET Programme, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) and the Employment Programs Department of the LEPL Social Service Agency of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, held a VET and Job Fair in the city of Tetrtskaro. The event aimed to connect job seekers from the Kvemo Kartli region to the VET colleges and employer companies.

The VET and Job fair was attended by the 11 vocational education colleges, local jobs seekers and 23 employer companies, including the representatives of the EU-supported rural development projects implemented by RDFG.



At the event, the opening speech was delivered by Vano Grigolashvili, RDFG chairman, who spoke about the Employment Shuttle and VET Programme implemented by RDFG with EU support. Then Levan Gogodze, Deputy Director of the LEPL Social Service Agency of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and Mariam Bezarashvili, Head of the Employment Programs Department of the agency, talked about challenges of the employment market and government strategy plans. Afterwards, Gvantsa Toroshelidze, representative of the Vocational Education Development Department of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia, highlighted the role of VET in the career development process.

Within the event, Kvemo Kartli region citizens were acquainted with different employment opportunities and got information about the educational courses VET colleges offer them. In addition, they met with people working in different fields who shared their success stories and explained how to become more competitive in the job market.

One of the most important components of the event was a competition aiming to select job seekers and award them with the vocational course vouchers. Within the EU-supported project Rural Development for Sustainable Growth of Tetrtskaro Municipality, the residents of the Tetrtskaro municipality had an opportunity to participate in the competition and to choose

the courses relevant to their interests. Ultimately, 30 winners were selected and awarded with a free voucher for different VET courses.

The EU-funded project “Rural Development for Sustainable Growth in the Tetrtskaro Municipality” is implemented by EU partner organisation, RDFG. The project aims to improve the quality of life in the Tetrtskaro municipality through the introduction of innovative social-economic models and engagement of local private and public sectors in the decision making. RDFG is partnering with the Agro-Technology Association and the Lithuanian Local Action Groups Network to carry out the action.

EU and AFD, in Partnership with RDFG, launched a New ENPARD Project to Support Small-Scale Commercial Farms and Cooperatives in Georgia



On October 3, 2019, the 4-year ENPARD project Finance & Extension & Cooperative Development for Georgian Farmers (FinExCoop Georgia) was launched. The project aiming to improve access to finance and agricultural extension services by small farms and cooperatives in Georgia is funded by EU and L'Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) with a total budget of EUR 4 million and implemented in partnership with the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG), Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, and Mercy Corps.



The conference was officially opened by George Khanishvili, First Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, and George Dehoux, Programme Manager for Agriculture and Food Safety at the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia.

“This new project will bring a significant additional dimension to the current EU support to Georgia’s agricultural development by enabling small and medium-size farming enterprises to better deal with current strategic sector challenges and by making the most of emerging market opportunities like those created by the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the European Union”, – stated Georges Dehoux, Programme Manager for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety at the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia.



The conference brought together key stakeholders in Georgia’s agricultural sector to inform them on the objectives and expected results of the project and to receive feedback from other actors active in the field. Representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, L'Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD), Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG), international donors and financial institutions, international and local NGOs, leading agricultural cooperatives and unions participated in the event.



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**EU AND AFD, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RDFG,
LAUNCHED A NEW ENPARD PROJECT TO SUPPORT
SMALL-SCALE COMMERCIAL FARMS AND
COOPERATIVES IN GEORGIA**



At the launching event, Samantha Guthrie, RDFG Grants Acquisition and Monitoring Coordinator, has also delivered a speech about RDFG's role in the project:

"RDFG is proud to represent the NGO sector, along with our partners Mercy Corps, within this project. Having local implementing partners is critical for ensuring sustainability and effectiveness. We are passionate about farmer-to-farmer methodologies, and the pilot projects that will be created are a great example of the power of demonstration for the adoption of new technologies and methods. Additionally, much of our work focuses on youth, and introducing new technologies into the Georgian agriculture sector will help attract and retain youth to agricultural work, which opens new livelihood opportunities for rural areas".

This project is part of a global program aiming at improving financial inclusiveness and access to market for small-scale commercial farmers. The first component was financed by Proparco, AFD's subsidiary dedicated to the private sector, through agro-credit lines extended to two major Georgian financial institutions.

The EU is supporting agriculture and rural development in Georgia through its ENPARD Programme. Implemented since 2013 with a total budget of EUR 179.5 million, the main goal of ENPARD is to provide economic opportunities in rural area and reduce poverty in Georgia.

RDFG DRR Center Participated in the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019

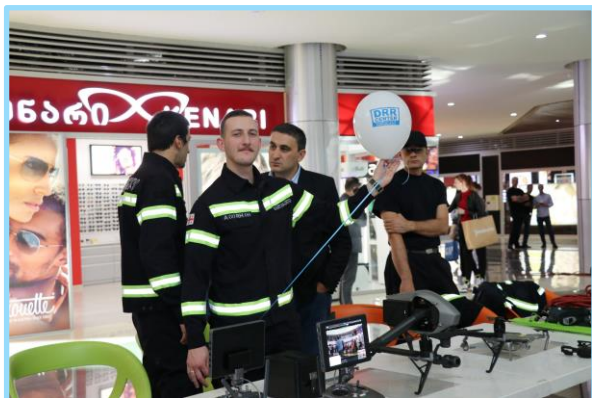


On October 13, 2019, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Center participated in the International Day for DRR organized by the office of the National Security Council of Georgia, Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Center of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Emergency Management Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, and 9 local and non-governmental organizations. The main purpose of the event was to promote public awareness about the disaster risk reduction and emergency management.

Disaster Risk Reduction and strengthening of emergency management systems is one of the organizational priorities of the RDFG DRR Center. Currently, our organization is implementing two projects related to the mentioned field: Assistance in Safety Improvement of Tailings Management Facilities (TMF) in Armenia and Georgia" and USAID Zrda Activity Disaster Risk Reduction component.



RDFG DRR Center Participated in the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019



International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction began in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.

Within the UNDP-funded Project, RDFG and DEKONTA Organized a Training on the Georgian Law on the Major Accident Prevention



On October 21, 2019, in the framework of the UNDP-funded project “Enhancing Georgian Approach towards Emergency Preparedness and Management”, DEKONTA company and Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) organized a training on the Georgian Law on the Major Accident Prevention and obligations arisen from it. The event was held at the Tbilisi Sea base of the Emergency Management Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and was attended by the representatives of the Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Center of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and the MIA Emergency Management Service. From RDFG’s side, Vano Grigolashvili, RDFG Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Center chairman and Shota Kublashvili, RDFG emergency management and disaster risk reduction expert participated in the training.

The project “Enhancing Georgian Approach Towards Emergency Preparedness and Management” follows up previous foreign aid intervention by Czech Republic in Georgia realized by DEKONTA company. The idea of this Project was initiated by the representatives of the project beneficiary, the Emergency Management Service, following implementation of the development project of the Czech Republic on capacity building of Georgian state administration bodies in 2018 by the Applicant.

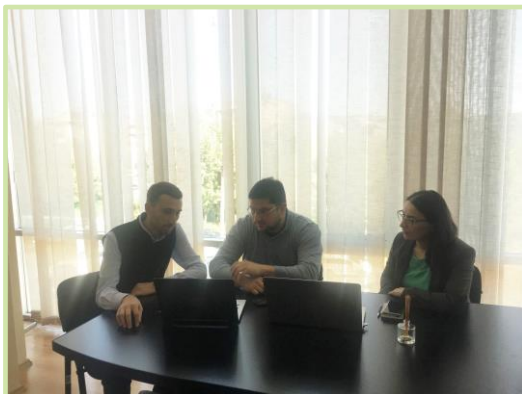


The aim of the current project is to support implementation of Major Accident Prevention connected with accidents in hazardous industrial facilities (hereinafter referred to as MAP) in Georgia by enhancing methodological and expert capabilities of one of the competent authorities in implementing and enforcing MAP in the country – the Emergency Management Service (EMS) of the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. According to the Georgian draft Law on MAP, EMS should be the competent body especially for determination of the emergency planning zone for hazardous industrial facilities and for preparing external emergency plans for municipalities or regions, where hazardous industrial facilities are located. Our organization – Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) is a local coordinator of the mentioned project.

RDFG DRR Center Organized the Final discussion of the Emergency Management Plan at the Gori Municipality City Hall



პროექტი ზრდა სამართველოში
ZRDA ACTIVITY IN GEORGIA



On October 1, 2019, in the framework of the USAID Zrda Activity, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Center together with the representatives of the Gori Municipality City Hall discussed the Emergency Management Plan after which it was approved by both sides. At the meeting, it was agreed that on October 11, 2019, the document will be presented at the Gori Municipality Assembly meeting for official adoption. The meeting was attended by Shota Kublashvili, RDFG Emergency Management and Disaster Risk Reduction Expert, Erasti Elijanashvili, the Deputy Mayor of the city of Gori and Nona Tateishvili, USAID Zrda Activity representative.

USAID Zrda Activity is a five-year program designed to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth in target regions. As it is impossible to support the sustainable economic development without creating safe environment, the project consists of disaster risk reduction activities on the local level, elaborating municipal emergency management plans according to modern standards and implementing relevant methods at the level of instructions. Within the project, DRR activities are being implemented by the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) and DRR Center of RDFG.

RDFG Conducts Study Visit for Georgian Startups to Vienna with Support from Austrian Development Agency



On October 1-4, 2019, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG), together with partner the Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA) and supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) organized a study visit to Vienna, Austria for leaders of new, innovative Georgian startups. The design and implementation of the program was also supported by the Austrian Chamber of Commerce.

The main purpose of the visit was to familiarize participants with Austrian knowledge and experience in the fields of agriculture, tourism and agritourism and to support the building of linkages to potential future partners. The project targeted representatives from eight startups in the agritourism industry – selected winners from GITA’s Startup Matching Grants Program and RDFG beneficiaries within the EU-funded ENPARD Programme. Accompanying the 8 startup representatives were senior staff from RDFG – Chairman Vano Grigolashvili and Rural Development Project Manager Nelly Revazishvili – and from GITA – Head of the International Relations Department Ani Vashakmadze. From the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, the group was joined by Johannes Fellner.



The study visit was designed and conducted with extremely positive feedback from participants, reporting that the visit had a significant impact on them and their startups, and expressing a desire to continue building bridges in Austria, implementing lessons learned during the visit, and establishing a startup association inspired by the association they met with in Vienna.



The overall objective of the project “Georgian Agritourism Startups Study Visit to Austria” was to stimulate sustainable growth and innovation and to develop profitable, high-quality industry leaders in the agritourism sector. The specific objective was to arrange and conduct a study visit to Austria for representatives of carefully selected Georgian agritourism startups.



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