



PG. 2

Within the Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program, 5 winner projects were awarded grants



PG. 3

RDFG and the professionals from 4 countries gathered in Latvia to experience the project called GUIDE



PG. 3-4

RDFG beneficiaries participated in the Cultural Heritage Forum in the Tetrtskaro Municipality



PG. 4-5

Journalists from EaP countries visited the EU-supported rural development projects in the Tetrtskaro Municipality



PG. 6

Within the USAID Zrda Activity, RDFG is announcing for the participation in the II phase of the Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program



PG. 7-8

The final conference within the transboundary project "Assistance in safety improvement of tailings management facilities (TMF) in Armenia and Georgia" was held



PG. 8

Within the framework of the project V4 Rural Development Experience for Sustainable Growth, experts from Slovak NGO Ekopolis visited the Tetrtskaro Municipality



Within the Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program, 5 Winner Projects were Awarded Grants

On September 7, 2019, within the closing ceremony of the I phase of the Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program held in Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA), the grant selection committee evaluated presented 14 entrepreneurial business ideas and selected 5 winner projects who were awarded grants: 10 000 GEL, 6 000 GEL, 6 462 GEL, 3 000 GEL, and 3 600 GEL. Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program is being implemented by the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) under the scope of the USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia and aims to strengthen rural youth through entrepreneurship.

The Program winners: Esma Tsikhelashvili – Aspindza, Nazi Antidze – Adigeni, Salome Kardava – Zugdidi, Giorgi Khurishvili – Gori, Giorgi Niparishvili – Kaspi.

Within the program, entrepreneurship training sessions have been conducted for 114 project participants in 9 target municipalities after which the authors of the best 18 business ideas were selected and invited to the Boot Camp to work on turning their ideas into the business projects. At the end of the second stage of the project, they were entrusted to prepare the so-called pitch in order to present their business projects to the grant selection committee.

During the pitching day, the project participants had only 5 minutes to pitch their ideas. All in all, 14 project ideas were presented to the grant selection committee. In the end, the committee had time for evaluation based on the beforehand developed criteria after which they had to select 5 winner projects. The grant selection committee was represented by the following members: Nika Kurdiani -Vice President of TBC Bank, Teo Babunashvili – Enterprise Development Department Program Manager, Teimuraz Mamatsashvili – Head of the GITA Startup projects, Katy Chumburidze – Deputy Chief of Party, USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia, and Archil Bakuradze – the Founder of Crystal.

Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program is being implemented in 9 target municipalities: Zugdidi, Borjomi, Aspindza, Adigeni, Ninotsminda, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Kaspi, and Gori. The program participants are required to present their business ideas related to agriculture, tourism, innovations/technologies or creative industries. The second phase of the project will start in the fall of 2019.

The project is being implemented by RDFG, within the USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia and is supported by Enterprise Georgia, Creative Georgia, Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency, National Tourism Administration, Agricultural and Rural Development Agency, Crystal, National Bank of Georgia, and TBC Bank.



RDFG BENEFICIARIES PARTICIPATED IN THE CULTURAL HERITAGE FORUM IN THE CITY OF TETRITSKARO



On September 15, 2019, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) beneficiaries participated in the Cultural Heritage Forum held in the city of Tetrtskaro. The main purpose of the event was to engage the society and business sector in the protection and patronage of the cultural heritage sites of Georgia. Within the forum, the exhibitions of ethnographic materials, traditional crafts, paintings, mosaics and other kinds of pieces of arts were held. The EU-funded rural development projects implemented by RDFG have also presented their products:

- Alexander Distillery – Qvevri-made whiskey, wine, Chacha, and Sharbat
- Tsintskaro+ – Cheese and other kinds of dairy products
- Cooperative Stone Spring – Honey
- Etno – Calvados
- Raspberry Production

The event was opened by Salome Zurabishvili, the president of Georgia who highlighted the importance of the preservation of the cultural heritage sites in Georgia. Afterwards, she toured the place where among other exhibitions, she has also got acquainted with the RDFG beneficiaries' products. The president was especially interested in Alexander Distillery's production process which uses a unique method for producing the Qvevri-made whiskey.

RDFG and the Professionals from 4 Countries Gathered in Latvia to Experience the Project Called GUIDE

From 1st till 9th of September 2019, in the framework of the cooperation with the Alternative Education Academy, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) and the professionals from 4 different countries (Latvia, Bulgaria, Italy, and Spain) gathered in Latvia to experience the project called GUIDE: Outlining Successful Strategies Against Gender-Based Violence. At the meeting, Vano Grigolashvili, RDFG Chairman presented our organization and the concrete activities implemented within the projects related to gender equity and equal opportunities. From Georgia, the representatives of the Alternative Education Academy and Ombudsman of Georgia have also attended the event.

Outlining Successful Strategies Against Gender-Based Violence (GUIDE) has been created as a response to the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) – a violence against a person because of their gender – and the need for active, focused and constantly improving methods for youth work to combat it. For many years, youth work organisations and communities in the project countries (Latvia, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria and Georgia) have been active in prevention through educating young people on equal rights, tolerance and understanding, as well as supporting them through their personal trials and obstacles – not only directly, but also through building support network and safer spaces for them.

This project aims to unite the youth workers from the participating countries, equip them with already existing and tested knowledge and practical abilities on fighting gender-based violence and open new opportunities for future collaboration.

The project's long-term beneficiaries are young people, as well as individuals, which have suffered from gender-based violence. The improved competences of the youth workers will act as a safety net for them and will improve the care and support they receive.

Project partner-organizations: Asociación Mundus, Proyecto Kieu, FutureNow (Bulgaria), Alternative Education Academy, Comunità Nuova, and MARTA. Project is implemented with the support of Erasmus+ and Jaunatnes starptautisko programmu aģentūra.



The European Union
for Georgia
ENPARD

RDFG BENEFICIARIES PARTICIPATED IN THE CULTURAL HERITAGE FORUM IN THE CITY OF TETRITSKARO



The Cultural Heritage Forum was held in Georgia for the first time. As planned, this kind of events will be held in different regions of Georgia in the future and will become a national tradition. This year the forum was organized by the National Agency of Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia, Kvemo Kartli Administration of State Representative, Tetrtskaro Municipality City Hall, Kvemo Kartli Municipality Self-Governments, public union – Sakdrisi Committee and Rich Metals Group (RMG).

The Cultural Heritage forum was attended by Shota Rekhviashvili, State Representative in Kvemo Kartli region, Nikoloz Antidze, the Head of the Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia, Goderdzi Chankseliani, Tetrtskaro Majority MP, Giorgi Koridze, Tetrtskaro Municipality Mayor, etc.

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.



The European Union
for Georgia
ENPARD

Journalists from EaP Countries Visited the EU-supported Rural Development Projects in Tetrtskaro Municipality

On September 17, 2019, within the framework of the project “Rural Development for Sustainable growth in the Tetrtskaro Municipality”, journalists from the Eastern Partnership and the European Union countries visited the EU-supported rural development projects implemented by the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) in the Tetrtskaro Municipality. The guests met with the representatives of the Tetrtskaro Local Action Group (LAG) and the project implementing partner organization, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG). Afterwards, they visited the rural development initiatives – food processing company Cheba and Adventure-Rope Park.



At the meeting with the LAG members, the journalists were introduced to the EU-funded rural development project implementing by EU’s partner organisation, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) in Tetrtskaro municipality. Nelly Revazishvili, RDFG Project Manager spoke about the main objectives of the EU-funded project and highlighted the importance of the European LEADER approach in the rural development process in Georgia. Furthermore, Nino Tikurishvili, Tetrtskaro LAG Executive Director spoke about the LAG activities and key achievements.



The European Union
for Georgia
ENPARD

Journalists from EaP Countries Visited the EU-supported Rural Development Projects in Tetrtskaro Municipality



Tetrtskaro's LAG is a multisectoral cooperation platform that brings together the civil, private and public sectors to stimulate the local development of the Tetrtskaro municipality through a balanced, participative and inclusive local development strategy. The Tetrtskaro LAG was formed in 2017, with the support of EU ENPARD programme and based on the EU LEADER approach for rural development. The LAG, with a membership of 97 Tetrtskaro residents, combines all 20 communities, including national and religious minorities as well as IDPs and eco-migrants residing in the Tetrtskaro municipality.

After the meeting with the Tetrtskaro LAG, the guests visited the EU beneficiary Food Processing Company Cheba. The company produces semi-finished food products along with fast food, serves both locals and tourists, also distributes its products to the local shops. The director of the company explained the specifics of meat processing and shared her plans for the business development with the EU support. The guests observed the food making process and tasted different varieties of traditional Georgian dough-covered dishes.



The journalists also had an opportunity to experience the Adventure-Rope Park, another EU-funded rural development initiative located in the settlement of Manglisi. The initiative, which was launched in summer 2019, is an outdoor eco-touristic attraction consisting of tangle of bridges and ropes. The purpose of the initiative is to attract more visitors to the national parks of Georgia.

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.

Within the USAID Zrda Activity, RDFG is Announcing for the Participation in the II Phase of the Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program



Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) within the USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia is announcing for the participation in the II phase of the Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program (Program) aiming to strengthen rural youth through entrepreneurship. Within the program, at least 3 winner business projects will be selected by the Grant Selection Committee and will be awarded grants with the maximum value of 10 000 GEL per project. The Program is supported by Enterprise Georgia, Creative Georgia, Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency, National Tourism Administration, Agricultural Projects' Management Agency, Financial Inclusion Organization Crystal, National Bank of Georgia, and TBC Bank.

Within the I phase of the program held from June to September 2019, 5 winner projects were eventually selected and awarded grants: 10 000 GEL, 6 000 GEL, 6 462 GEL, 3 000 GEL, and 3 600 GEL. The Program winners introduced the projects from agriculture and creative industry, such as production of rye and buckwheat bread and biscuits in Gori; production of succulent plants in Zugdidi; support to production of traditional Georgian fork instruments in Kaspi; production of piquant jams in Aspinda and support to small sewing shop in Adigeni.

Within the Program, entrepreneurship skills development trainings will be conducted into two stages for young people (age of 18-29) living in the 9 target municipalities (Zugdidi, Borjomi, Aspinda, Adigeni, Ninotsminda, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Kaspi and Gori). The training sessions will be implemented based on the adapted United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO) entrepreneurial-training manual and will be held in 9 municipalities at the same time. Within the II phase, maximum 25 people will be invited to participate in training sessions in each municipality (October 5-6). After this, the Program participants will be required to present their business ideas related to agriculture, tourism, innovations/technologies and creative industries.

During Phase II, after completion of local training sessions, the authors of at least 15 entrepreneurial ideas or the group of authors (max of 3) will be invited to the "boot-camp" where during 6-7 days they will have an opportunity to attend intensive training sessions and work on turning their own ideas into business projects. On the final stage of Phase II, the Grant Selection Committee will select at least 3 winner business projects eligible for funding with the maximum amount of 10 000 GEL per project.



The Final Conference Within the Transboundary Project “Assistance in Safety Improvement of Tailings Management Facilities (TMF) in Armenia and Georgia” was Held



On September 17-19, 2019, in the framework of the transboundary project “Assistance in safety improvement of tailings management facilities (TMF) in Armenia and Georgia” a final conference was held aiming to discuss the prepared documents on legislation and methodology along with the implemented activities during the project time period. Besides, one of the main purposes of the event was the fourth meeting of the advisory board. The mentioned project has been implemented in Georgia by the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Center.

The advisory board consists of the representatives from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents and international experts. The Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group is functioning within the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.



The event was attended by the representatives from 11 different countries (Georgia, Germany, Armenia, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, Kirgizstan, Kazakhstan, Poland), including the public and NGO sectors, also the representatives of the private mining companies.

Our organization, the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG), participates in a transboundary project “Assistance in safety improvement of tailings management facilities (TMF) in Armenia and Georgia”. Project goal is to contribute to the improvement and strengthening of national capacities of authorized/component agencies and industrial enterprises in Armenia and Georgia, to improve the management of disasters caused by industrial accidents, including by those with transboundary impact, to increase the level of preparedness of industrial enterprises, selecting industrial storage basins (tailings) as target facilities.

At the first stage of the project “Analysis of existing legislation related to the management of tailings in Georgia” was developed, based on which recommendations were given for amendments to the national legislation. In addition, recommendations were prepared as a regulatory on TMF management for the former Soviet Union countries. This document has been submitted to the members JEG (Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents) of the UNECE and other international experts. The

Joint Expert Group (JEG) operates in the framework of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Project is financed by the German Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighboring the European Union. It is supervised by the German Environment Agency (UBA) and is implemented by the Armenian non-governmental organization "Eco Peace" in partnership with the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia.

Georgian component of the project is implemented in close collaboration with the LEPL National Agency of Mines under the Ministry of Economic and Sustainable Development of Georgia, LEPL National Environmental Agency and Environmental Supervision Department under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia State Sub-Agency of Emergency Management Service, as well as private mining companies such as RMG Gold.

Within the Framework of the Project V4 Rural Development Experience for Sustainable Growth, Experts from Slovak NGO Ekopolis Visited the Tetrtskaro Municipality



The European Union
for Georgia
ENPARD



On September 27-28, 2019, within the framework of the project V4 Rural Development Experience for Sustainable Growth, funded by the International Visegrad Fund, experts from Slovak NGO Ekopolis visited the Tetrtskaro Municipality to support the European-Union-funded project Rural Development for Sustainable Growth in the Tetrtskaro Municipality.

The Ekopolis experts held four trainings over the course of the visit with the residents of the Tetrtskaro Municipality, including RDFG beneficiaries. The training sessions, on environmental awareness in project design, informed community members of the importance of conserving their environment to promote and protect economic growth, health, and overall quality of life. The

aim of the project V4 Rural Development Experience for Sustainable Growth is to lift the conditions of the people of Tetrtskaro using V4 countries' experiences utilizing nature conservation to increase economic benefits, particularly from sustainable agriculture and tourism. It improves the development framework by supporting the Tetrtskaro Local Action Group to write an Action Plan on harnessing the confluence of economy and environment in the Tetrtskaro Municipality.

The project V4 Rural Development Experience for Sustainable Growth is implemented as a complementary component to the EU-supported project Rural Development for Sustainable Growth in the Tetrtskaro municipality, a 3-year grant project implemented by RDFG. The EU-funded project "Rural Development for Sustainable Growth in the Tetrtskaro Municipality" 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.



Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG)

Contact us

 0322 24 05 01

 info@rdfg.ge

 www.rdfg.ge

 <https://www.facebook.com/WWW.RDFG.GE/>

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/rdfg---rural-development-for-future-georgia>

 4, Gabriel Isakadze Street, 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia