



PG. 2-3

**Regional Training in Georgia on Methodology for Improving TMF Safety**



PG. 2

**Within the Memorandum Signed by RDFG and GCCI, RDFG visited the Guria region**



PG. 4-5

**Within the Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program, project participants attended the intensive training sessions at the Boot Camp**



PG. 5-6

**Tetritskaro Local Action Group (LAG) together with Lagodekhi and Borjomi LAGs visited Latvia**



PG. 6

**Within the USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia, RDFG DRR Center held meetings with the representatives of the Bolnisi and Marneuli Municipality City Halls**



PG. 7

**Rammed Earth Architecture for constructing a wine cellar – Alexander Distillery's new step to success**

## Regional Training in Georgia on Methodology for Improving TMF Safety



On August 16, 2019, in the framework of the transboundary project “Assistance in safety improvement of tailings management facilities (TMF) in Armenia and Georgia”, DRR Center operating under the Association Rural Development for Future

Georgia (RDFG) organized a regional training in Georgia on Methodology for improving TMF safety. The main purpose of the event was to train environment protection and emergency management civil servants and representatives from the private mining operators in application of the TMF Checklist Methodology by national supervisory agencies and hosting companies. The event was hosted by the Rich Metals Group (RMG) in Kazreti, Bolnisi Municipality.

The training was attended by the representatives of state and non-state agencies, such as: The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, LEPL National Environmental Agency of The Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Environmental Assessment Department of the Ministry of Environment Protection And Agriculture of Georgia, LEPL National Agency of Mines of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, The State Sub-Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia – Emergency Management Service, Rich Metals Group, LLC Georgian Manganese, Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, and Sakdrisi Committee.

Within the training, theoretical and practical exercises were implemented with the TMF Checklist Methodology developed on the basis of the UNECE Safety guidelines and good practices for tailings management facilities in 2013-2015, in the framework of the project “Improving the safety of industrial tailings



## WITHIN THE MEMORANDUM SIGNED BY RDFG AND GCCI, RDFG VISITED THE GURIA REGION

On August 20, 2019, within the framework of the memorandum signed by the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) and Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), Vano Grigolashvili, RDFG chairman met with Zurab Nasaraia, a State Representative in Guria. Within the meeting organized by the GCCCI Guria and the initiative group Agile Guria, the two sides spoke about the development of the Guria region and their future cooperation. Furthermore, Vano Grigolashvili presented the rural development projects implemented by RDFG and spoke about the fields RDFG works in. The event was attended by Irakli Siradze, Deputy Mayor of the Ozurgeti Municipality and Davit Darchia, Assembly Chairman.

Founded in 2010, RDFG is a development and relief non-profit organization that assists vulnerable communities with social and economic development to strengthen their self-resilience. RDFG also provides technical assistance to local governments to develop and adapt advanced management systems and methodologies. RDFG's work encompasses issues such as socio-economic development, peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction (DRR), advocacy, gender equity, youth engagement and innovation.

In the framework of the memorandum between RDFG and GCCCI, one of the main purposes of the cooperation is to plan and implement joint rural development projects in order to strengthen different regions of Georgia. RDFG's visit to Guria is the first step taken within this cooperation.





group of trainers who were nominated by Georgia in 2018 and trained within the ToT held in Tsakhkadzor, Armenia: Ketevan Jincharadze, Rusudan Kruashvili, Irakli Nozadze, Konstantine Zarandia, and Merab Chalatazhvili.

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.



management facilities based on the example of Ukrainian facilities”. This methodology was considered for the development of a similar checklist for the south Caucasus region.

Moreover, the participants of the training received the information about the RDFG DRR Center and the transboundary project “Assistance in safety improvement of tailings management facilities (TMF) in Armenia and Georgia”. Besides, RMG has also presented the information about the company’s activities and RMG Cooper, the TMF chosen for the practical workshop. The training sessions in Kazreti were led by the following

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 Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program, project participants attended the intensive training sessions at the Boot Camp



**USAID**

პროექტი ზრდა სტარტაპებისთვის  
ZRDA ACTIVITY IN GEORGIA



**Chemonics**  
Development works here.

On July 31-August 5, 2019, in the framework of the Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program, the authors of 17 entrepreneurial ideas were invited to the one week Boot Camp in Bazaleti where they attended the intensive training sessions and worked on turning their own ideas into the business projects. In the framework of the Boot Camp, young startups and representatives from state and non-state organizations were invited to share their knowledge and experience with youth and to discuss the dos and don'ts while launching a startup. The Regional youth Entrepreneurship Program is being implemented by Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) under the scope of the USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia.



At the Boot Camp, the participants of the project learned about the steps they must take while launching a new startup. First, they have got acquainted with the business model Canvas which is a strategic management and a startup template for developing new or documenting existing business models. Afterwards, based on that knowledge, they have worked on improving their own business projects. Within the event, training sessions were conducted about the different issues related to business. Dealing with Customers and Partners, Distribution Channels, Marketing and Social Media, Financial Planning and Forecasting – these are the topics of the sessions led by the trainers instructed within the ToT by Tea Mkheidze, the master trainer.

One of the main components of the camp was the meetings with young startups. Zura Pertaia, the founder of Gogra.ge, agriculture and technology startup, spoke about the business development of Gogra.ge and about the mistakes done within his other startups. Moreover, Nikoloz Gogochuri, the founder of VRex, another Georgian startup offering to experience virtual tourist realities, spoke about the difference between SMEs and Startups and explained who can/cannot be called an entrepreneur. Afterwards, he has pitched his already implemented business and gave an example of how to present a business project idea to a jury.

Within the other training days, the project participants had an opportunity to get information about financial issues and funding opportunities. Beso Trapaidze, the financial consultant, helped them in filling out the main financial documents, also with financial planning and forecasting. Besides, the representatives of Creative Georgia and Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (ARDA) spoke about the funding opportunities Georgian Government offers startups. As for the National Bank of Georgia, the representatives of the organization have conducted a training session aiming to inform youth about the financial organizations and their services. Moreover, the participants of the project found out how to become more confident in dealing with various financial organizations



and got information about their rights and responsibilities in order to make the right financial decisions in the seeking process of funding.

The Boot Camp turned out to be very practical as the participants of the project gained new skills and knowledge from the business

simulations and other kind of practical exercises conducted by the mentors and invited guests. Moreover, they would have separate time to work on improving their business ideas based on the learned topics during the training days. In conclusion, each author of a business idea has drowned out the outline of a business project and learnt how to pitch his/her idea to the jury.

At this stage of the project, the participants are working on completing their business project ideas and preparing the pitch in order to make the relevant application in August 2019. In September 2019, authors of all the 17 business ideas will present their projects to the jury which will select only 3 winner projects which will be awarded the grants: 10 000 GEL, 8 000 Gel, and 6 000 GEL.

## **Tetrtskaro Local Action Group together with Lagodekhi and Borjomi LAGs visited Latvia**



On August 21-25, 2019, within the TNC project “Horse Industry: Possibilities Today and in Future”, Tetrtskaro Local Action Group (LAG) together with Lagodekhi and Borjomi LAGs visited Latvia to meet with the representatives of the Latvian LAG. The main purpose of the event was to share the Latvian experience of organizing and developing the horse industry and to get acquainted with the local legislative regulations.

The representatives of the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG), CARE and Mercy Corps, also the experts and business representatives have also attended the event.

The EU-funded project “Rural Development for Sustainable Growth in the Tetrtskaro Municipality” is implemented by EU partner organisation, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (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.

In the framework of the visit, the members of the Georgian LAGs had an opportunity to visit and tour around the horse-riding businesses and EU funded projects. They have also met with the representatives of the Equestrian Federation of Latvia and the Municipality of Engure, attended the competition (jump over obstacles) and visited wine and strong alcohol enterprises, as well.

In the framework of the visit, the members of the Georgian LAGs have also met with the representatives of the Equestrian Federation of Latvia and the Municipality of Engure, attended the competition (jump over obstacles) and visited wine and strong alcohol enterprises, as well. Furthermore, they have also been hosted at the well-equipped





Latvian University of Agriculture (equine clinic) which was very much impressive for them. Besides, they have got acquainted with the services Latvian horse businesses offer their customers.

The visit to Latvia was very fruitful for the representatives of the Tetrtskaro, Lagodekhi and Borjomi LAGs as they have found out a lot of new information about the equine industry including the legislative regulations based on which they will be able to deal with different cases in the future.

The event in Latvia is the second meeting between the Georgian and Latvian LAG representatives. On May 3, 2019, the Tetrtskaro, Lagodekhi and Borjomi Local Action Groups (LAGs) hosted the Latvian

LAG at the RDFG Tetrtskaro Office. The event aimed to share Georgian experience of equine industry and discuss the challenges in this field.

The aim of the TNC project "Horse Industry: possibilities today and in future" is to promote the competitiveness of equine industry: stables, horse breeders, horse farms, tourism farms and their services, by developing a cooperation network of local and foreign horse breeders, promoting the exchange of good practice, experiences and adapting them in local area. Within the project, partnership agreement is signed between the Local Action Groups from Latvia, Finland and Georgia, including the Tetrtskaro LAG led by its executive director Nino Tikurishvili.

**Within the USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia, RDFG DRR Center held meetings with the representatives of the Bolnisi and Marneuli Municipality City Halls**



On August 27 and 29, 2019, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) DRR Center organized the working meetings with the representatives of the Bolnisi and Marneuli Municipality City Halls. The events were held within the USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia and their main purpose was to introduce RDFG DRR Center's planned activities related to disaster risk reduction in the 9 target regions of Georgia. At the meetings, the discussions were held about the risks of natural and technogenic disasters and the development of their management plan at the municipal level after which the representatives of the local Municipality City Halls declared their readiness for future cooperation.

Furthermore, as long as they have appropriate resources, they have also expressed their willingness for full support and mobilization. The meetings were led by Shota Kublashvili, RDFG emergency management and disaster risk reduction expert.

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.

## Rammed Earth Architecture for constructing a wine cellar – Alexander Distillery’s new step to success



Rammed Earth in Architecture is a unique structural building method of compressing a sandy mixture into a hard sandstone-like material, the analogue of which has never been used in Georgia. This is the way by which Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) beneficiary Alexander Distillery’s new wine cellar is being built. Furthermore, the embassy of Germany in Tbilisi is going to use the same methodology to raise a new working building in Tbilisi, too. As a result, Alexander Distillery’s new wine cellar along with the German Embassy in Tbilisi will be the first two constructions in Georgia built with this unique methodology.

On July 31, 2019, Thomas Pioneman, famous Austrian architect, the right hand of Martin Rauch, also the well-known architect from the same country and the re-establisher of the Rammed Earth in Architecture in Europe, has visited RDFG beneficiary Alexander Distillery in the village of Alekseevka, Tetrtskaro Municipality, to get acquainted with the construction process of a new cellar. Givi Jakeli, his Georgian colleague, founder of Tera Caucasus and the pioneer in implementing the Rammed Earth Architecture in Georgia hosted the guest and showed him how the construction process of a cellar is being held. In the framework of the meeting, Mr. Pioneman gave advice to his Georgian colleagues and emphasized the importance of the fact that after researching the earth of Alekseevka in laboratory recently, the results showed that it was in compliance with the set norm for using the rammed earth method.

Rammed earth in Architecture is a technique for constructing foundations, floors, and walls using natural raw materials such as earth, chalk, lime, or gravel and the water, which are compressed and dried. It is an ancient method that has been revived recently as a sustainable building material used in a technique of natural building. This method is antibacterial and provides thermal isolation which is significant for such a building as a cellar, it also reduces ecological threats and becomes more and more popular in recent years. After constructing a new cellar with rammed earth, Alexander Distillery will solve lots of problems related to the obstacles in producing the wine at 1200 meters above sea level.

The Rural development project Alexander Distillery produces whisky in Qvevri, also unites production of different varieties of wine, Sharbat (subcontinental drink prepared from fruits or flower petals) and Chacha (a strong spirit like vodka or brandy). The project is being implemented by RDFG in the framework of the EU funded project “Rural Development for Sustainable Growth in Tetrtskaro Municipality”.





## Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG)

### Contact us

 0322 24 05 01

 [info@rdfg.ge](mailto:info@rdfg.ge)

 [www.rdfg.ge](http://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