

Minister of Internally displaced persons from the occupied territories, labour, health and social affairs
of Georgia

Mrs. Ekaterine Tikaradze,

Copy: Administration of the Government of Georgia,

Copy: Business Ombudsman

July 2, 2020

Your Excellency,

The implementation of the training program for labor safety specialists in Georgia by educational organizations has been suspended for the sixth month in a row at the initiative of the Ministry of Health. During this time, labor safety training and consulting companies have been in constant anticipation of the training renewal process.

We welcome the course taken by the Ministry to reform the curriculum for its further refinement and development, although this process has been going on for almost a year now and is very painful for both educational organizations and businesses. It can be argued that labor safety reform has been practically halted because today organizations do not have the opportunity to retrain employees or hire certified labor safety personnel.

At the current stage, the business economic crisis has created difficulties for training companies, which on the one hand are in complete uncertainty, whether they will get the right to implement the curriculum again, and on the other hand this business is not only at risk but also on the verge of extinction. Retaining trainers, international programs (licensing of which is quite expensive), translating, processing and adapting literature puts a heavy burden on organizations, and in the face of these difficulties, the Ministry does not voice its plan or project to renew the suspended reform. Whether they will still be eligible to teach.

The Ministry was obliged to develop and manage this program in accordance with the Organic Law of Georgia on Occupational Health and Safety, which has been an incomplete mission for half a year. As a result, we see that the Ministry does not comply with the requirements of the law, and there are no other mechanisms for its implementation, which practically leaves organizations "hoping for good."

There is an alarming situation on the labor market; employers want to retrain his staff, but not being entitled to do so. Training companies receive numerous calls daily from business representatives urging to send their employees to training courses so that they can meet the requirements of the Labor Safety Act. However, if the Labor Inspection Department inspects the business operator, it is impossible to correct this violation due to the shortage on the labor market. It is noteworthy that up to 5000 specialists have been trained so far, and at least 50 times more business entities are engaged in active business. It should be noted that most of the retrained people are concentrated in Tbilisi. There are practically no specialists left in other regions of Georgia.

Prior to the legislative changes related to labor safety reform, the Ministry is requested to implement the current program for training safety specialists and monitor the quality of training in accordance with health regulations, as the Ministry has already issued relevant recommendations for educational institutions.

We therefore call on you to reconsider the regulations set by you, that are creating hurdles for businesses and within this month, July allow the training companies to fulfill their job.

Sincerely,

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Chairman of the board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a vertical line with a series of horizontal loops and a final upward stroke.