

Centre for Civil Integration and Inter-Ethnic Relations (CCIIR)

Spotlight
2014 -2015



CIVIL INTEGRATION
THROUGH EDUCATION

Tbilisi, 8/90 Mtskheta St. | www.cciir.ge | info@cciir.ge | www.facebook.com/CCIIR | 2922595

OVERVIEW

Centre for Civil Integration and Inter-Ethnic Relations (CCIIR) is a non-governmental, non-commercial organization established in 2005 and since then it has been working for achieving positive state development through education and capacity building in Georgia. The main goal of the organization is to support the integration and re-integration process of minority groups and underprivileged population of the country through empowerment, participation, advocacy and capacity building. We support our beneficiaries to become equal participants of social, cultural, political and economic life of the country. The diverse and multilevel approach including development of teaching, learning and methodological resources, training courses and workshops for teachers and educators, development of university programs and courses, mobilisation of local population and awareness raising campaigns, study tours and exchange programs - this is an incomplete list of those interventions the organization is undertaking regularly. Today the organization is one of those 16 analytical organizations and one of those three organizations focusing of education issues which are operating in Georgia and which signed an Ethical and Quality Standards Document. The document presents comprehensive standards to guide the work of Georgian think tanks and establishes principles to ensure that the think tanks meet the highest possible professional standards.

Mission and Objectives

- Develop and implement projects and programs striving at civil integration, democratisation and inter-ethnic relations;
- Protect and advocate rights of ethnic minorities, refugees and IDPs, disabled, repatriated, deported and economically disadvantaged population;
- Strengthen tolerance and respect to diversity, support intercultural dialogue;

SINCE 2005

- More than 45 projects
- 10 teachers professional development programs
- Teachers' bilingual language and intercultural education programs
- More than 150 academic, methodological, instructional materials, textbooks
- E-platform for improvement of reading literacy
- Rigorous studies in the field of Education and Development

- Support educational reform and fight for equality of rights and opportunities during this process;
- Facilitate growth of well-educated young people with strong civic conscience and democratic vision
- Promote and encourage life-long education, early and adults' literacy;
- Facilitate the process of formation of language policy, support bilingual education and advance state and minority language teaching processes;
- Building capacity of those who are deprived from the state goods and empower them for equal participation and prepare for informed decision-making processes;
- Facilitate peace building and reconciliation, ethnic conflict prevention;

Programs & Priorities

- Multiculturalism and civil education
- School development and teachers' education
- Democratisation and equality of tertiary education
- Youth Development and capacity building
- Literacy and bi-literacy
- Peace building and reconciliation
- Public policy, research and analysis

Major accomplishments and some key projects over the past year

✓ "Education financing system and equity in Georgia" project was implemented with the financial support of USAID in the framework of the EWM's program G-PAC over a one year period in 2014. It aimed to support an equity and social justice in education system of Georgia while examining effectiveness and efficiency of recent reforms from financing perspectives, its implications on education quality and equal accessibility and putting comprehensive analysis and evidence based recommendations for positive changes. The project targeted more than 2200 schools, which positively impacted by the results, findings, new formula recommendations and public policies elaborated within the project; App. 560 000 students and more than 78 000 teachers who benefited from the better financing system and guaranteed quality education opportunities. The research methodology covered desk-research/document review, face-to-face stakeholder interviews, focus group discussions with students of basic and secondary grade.

✓ "Innovative Action for Gender Equality" project was implemented with the financial support of UN Women and the European Union over 2014/15 period. The ultimate goal of the project was to empower teachers of non-Georgian schools for meaningful inclusion into the professional development processes, making them well-informed and accountable for providing equal educational and development opportunities to future generations. As a result of the project, the education policy amendment is reflected in legislative and regulatory documentation making possible for app. 7 000 ethnic minority teachers to receive professional development programs and to pass the professional certification examination in their native language; More than 800 teachers meet policy makers setting in dialogue with them; learnt well about the professional development and career growth opportunities and advocated their rights; the complex training course and modules for

gender sensitive pedagogy was created and more than 600 teachers retrained;

✓ "Preparedness for Multicultural Instruction – Teachers' Education in Georgia" project was funded by Policy, Advocacy and Civil Society Development in Georgia GPAC and was implemented over a one year period in 2014. The project aimed to improve teachers' education and professional development system in terms of mainstreaming and promoting multiculturalism and targeted 1. app. 68 000 teachers of public schools, 2. app. 10 HEIs implementing teachers education program on BA, MA and PhD degrees, 3. 20 senior staff of education program faculty as well as TPD programs, 4. 1726 students studying in HEIs on different degrees, 5. Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and respective national centres by the ministry, 6. the organizations possessing accrediting teachers professional development programs. The research methodology covered desk-research/document review, face-to-face stakeholder interviews, focus group discussions and data analysis.

✓ Currently CCIIR is implementing "Development and Introduction of Multilingual Teacher Education Programs at Universities of Georgia and Ukraine" project funded by European Commission TEMPUS program. It aims to develop and implement BA and MA programs in multilingual education at Georgian and Ukrainian universities. The twelve higher educational institutions from Georgia, Ukraine, Germany, Latvia, and Lithuania are partners in the project. Through project the CCIIR will a) prepare the university faculty members of Georgia to apply modern pedagogical methods in BA, MA programs in multilingual education, b) prepare HEIs of Georgia to deliver modern BA, MA and in-service teacher's certificate study programs in multilingual education, c) develop of model platform and web-sites for programs and courses for Georgia, d) will translate 12 most important textbooks in the field of education in Georgian language, e) will issue the volumes of online "International Journal of Multilingual Education".

✓ Another ongoing project of CCIIR is "Incorporation of Multicultural Education Approaches in Teacher Education Programs" financed by Open Society Georgia Foundation. The project aims to prepare future multiculturally sensitive teachers with the ability to manage diversity in the classroom through improving the teacher education programs at the universities of Kutaisi, Batumi and Gori. Through project the organization a) will cooperate with the faculty of teacher education programs at each university to improve teacher education programs according to the new standard of teacher professional development, b) will organize workshops for the faculty of teacher education programs on how to develop intercultural curriculum, c) will help students, administrative staff and lecturers to plan and organize intercultural events, which will promote tolerance and diversity at universities.

✓ The cooperative project "Promotion of Integration, Tolerance and Awareness" (PITA) is 5 year project funded by USAID. The project renders a complex set of activities that aim to support civic integration across diverse ethnic and geographic boundaries in Georgia. The project introduces NGO-based youth clubs throughout Georgia; furnishes local NGOs with advanced capacities to manage diversity and civic participation more effectively; exploits social media and social exchange to establish active connections between the young boys and girls of Georgia from different regions and ethnic communities; builds awareness and stimulates national debate through media production on local and national television; and supports Public Defender's Tolerance Center and the Civic Integration and Tolerance Council at the President of Georgia to advance sustainable capacities on local and national levels. The CCIIR will be providing expertise in developing methodological resources and guidelines, carrying out studies in order to learn better the specific needs and demand of the project target groups; based on the results of the studies the CCIIR will be preparing policy papers, mobilize different group of society and advocate for democratization and positive changes.

✓ Preservation of Abkhazian Language by Abkhazians and Georgian (PALAG) is another he compound project funded by USAID and implemented since September 2015 by the organization in cooperation with Abkhazian, national and international partners. The project aims at the peace building and reconciliation of Georgian and Abkhazian people while protecting and promoting an endangered Abkhazian language – the most important sign of national identity, powerful tool for cultural expression for Abkhazian people and clear evidence of Georgian-Abkhazian peaceful cohabitation during the centuries. The project will move forward: 1. To mobilization of Georgian and Abkhazian academic and public society around the common interest of preservation and revitalization of Abkhazian language and support the process of developing computerized linguistic instruments for launching Abkhazian Language Corpus; 2. Connect young people, potential leaders from Abkhazia and Georgia to respect and advocate universal human values, encourage them to promote fostering of peaceful cohabitation mutual respect, confidence and tolerance in their regular life and life of their friends. 3. Facilitate the meaningful dialogue on issues of common interest between the diverse groups of society including educational professionals, academics and scholars young people for restoration of people-to-people cooperation;

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