

Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSRDG)



Annual Report 2025

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2025 Annual report

30 year for you and with you!

Founded in 1995, CSRDG has been operating nationwide for 30 years, serving public interests, promoting economic empowerment, and contributing to the development of sustainable institutions. Since its establishment, the organization has implemented numerous research and analytical projects, contributed to the development of legislative and practical approaches, and supported the creation and strengthening of community-based and civil society networks across different regions of Georgia. The organization actively works to advance social entrepreneurship and social services, strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations, and provide tailored technical support. It has also been among the pioneers in promoting knowledge and awareness of corporate social responsibility and sustainability, fostering collaboration between the private and civil sectors, increasing public awareness on key social and economic issues, and supporting the development of consumer protection practices in the country.

Foreword

Our commitment to our core values has shaped our journey and, over 30 years of work in the civil sector, has positioned us as a strong research organization, a trusted partner, and an active contributor to societal development.

It is our pleasure to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia. This document provides an overview of our activities and is shared annually with the public. We consider it our responsibility to remain transparent to our stakeholders and to present the contribution our organization has made to the country's economic, social, and cultural development.

2025 year's report integrates our annual program achievements along with our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

In 2007, CSRDG has joined UN Global Compact Initiative. And since 2010, CSRDG has been an organizational supporter of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).



COMMUNITY MEMBER

2025

Global Reporting Initiative is an international network organization, which aims at elaboration and continuous improvement of universal standards of sustainable development reporting.

 This is our Communication on Progress in implementing the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and supporting broader UN goals. We welcome feedback on its contents.	UN Global Compact is the largest global initiative on corporate citizenship. It is based on organizations' voluntary initiatives to implement universal sustainability principles and take steps to support UN goals.
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Within this report, we reaffirm our continued commitment to the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

We also confirm our readiness to continue cooperating with the UN Global Compact and, where possible, to participate in its activities and events, as well as to engage in partnership initiatives and projects related to corporate social responsibility and sustainable development. When relevant and upon request, we will review the Communications on Progress of other participants in the UN Global Compact initiative.

Through this Communication on Engagement, we outline the key actions our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles, in line with the expectations for organizations of our type. We are also committed to sharing this information with our stakeholders through our main communication channels and to welcoming feedback on its content.

2025 was marked by significant challenges for civil society organizations. Ongoing legislative and institutional changes in the country, along with operational constraints, limited the sector's activities and affected the implementation of planned initiatives. In this context, certain activities were delayed or adjusted, requiring a reassessment of priorities. Nevertheless, the organization managed to maintain a results-oriented approach and, despite the challenging political and economic environment, achieved important results across various areas, including the development of social services, consumer protection, community development, support for social entrepreneurship, increasing public awareness on European integration issues, and the promotion of responsible business practices (CSR). The organization's programs strengthened the capacities of local groups and social enterprises, increased public awareness, and expanded inclusive economic opportunities across regions. In 2025, CSRDG was implementing seven projects under these programs, detailed information on which is provided in this report.

In particular, we highlight several key achievements: progress in social service delivery, including reduced barriers and a shift toward a more inclusive, needs-based home care system; improvements in consumer protection regulations, including the alignment of trans-fat limits in food with international standards; increased public awareness and engagement in the European integration process, supported through accessible educational resources and information activities that improved understanding of its practical relevance; and significant progress in CSR, including expanded advisory services, stronger engagement with the private sector, and the adoption of international sustainability standards.

Notably, a CSRDG expert maintained GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) certification, and CSRDG supported the preparation of another sustainability report aligned with

international standards for a large private company, while also advising businesses pursuing B Corp standards.

In the area of social enterprise development, we particularly highlight results that demonstrate that targeted financial and technical support is an effective mechanism for strengthening community-based economic development and inclusive service provision. Supported enterprises not only maintained operations in a challenging environment, but also generated income, expanded services, and contributed to social, cultural, and environmental initiatives across multiple regions. In this context, social enterprises proved to be among the most resilient actors in sustaining community services, economic opportunities, and social innovation at the local level.

The role of Impact Fund Actio is particularly noteworthy, as in 2025 it strengthened the social enterprise ecosystem through targeted financial and technical support, enabling enterprises to scale their operations and generate both economic growth and measurable social and environmental impact.

The Community Development Program also delivered tangible results despite the challenging environment, contributing to both economic empowerment and improved local service provision. The program created additional income opportunities for rural women, strengthened small family businesses, and introduced alternative resource mobilization mechanisms, including crowdfunding, which supported the expansion of social services.

Importantly, 2025 also marked a strengthening of CSRDG's regional role, as the organization successfully transferred its expertise and methodologies beyond Georgia, including to Azerbaijan. Capacity-building and advisory programs implemented with civil society organizations demonstrated that our approaches can be effectively transferred and adapted to a regional context.

Overall, the results achieved confirm that even in complex environments, sustained investment in institutional capacity, small family businesses and social enterprise development, and cross-sector collaboration remains a highly effective approach to strengthening resilience and promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the dedication and efforts of the CSRDG team, as well as our partners and supporters. It is through their engagement and collaboration that we were able not only to implement planned activities, but also to achieve meaningful results in a particularly challenging environment.

I would like to especially acknowledge the contribution of each member of our team, whose professionalism and sense of responsibility enabled them to effectively respond to the challenges of the year and significantly strengthen the organization's knowledge, experience, and overall capacity.

Eka Urushadze,
Executive Director, CSRDG

Geography

The area of our activities covers the whole of Georgia, however, within specific program areas, the organization works more intensively in selected target regions, namely Guria, Samegrelo–Zemo Svaneti, Racha–Lechkhumi–Kvemo Svaneti, Imereti, and Kakheti.

Our head office is located in Tbilisi.

Mission, Vision and Strategic Objectives

Mission

Our mission is to promote good governance, stable and inclusive economic development, and the formation of an active civil society for the welfare of Georgian society.

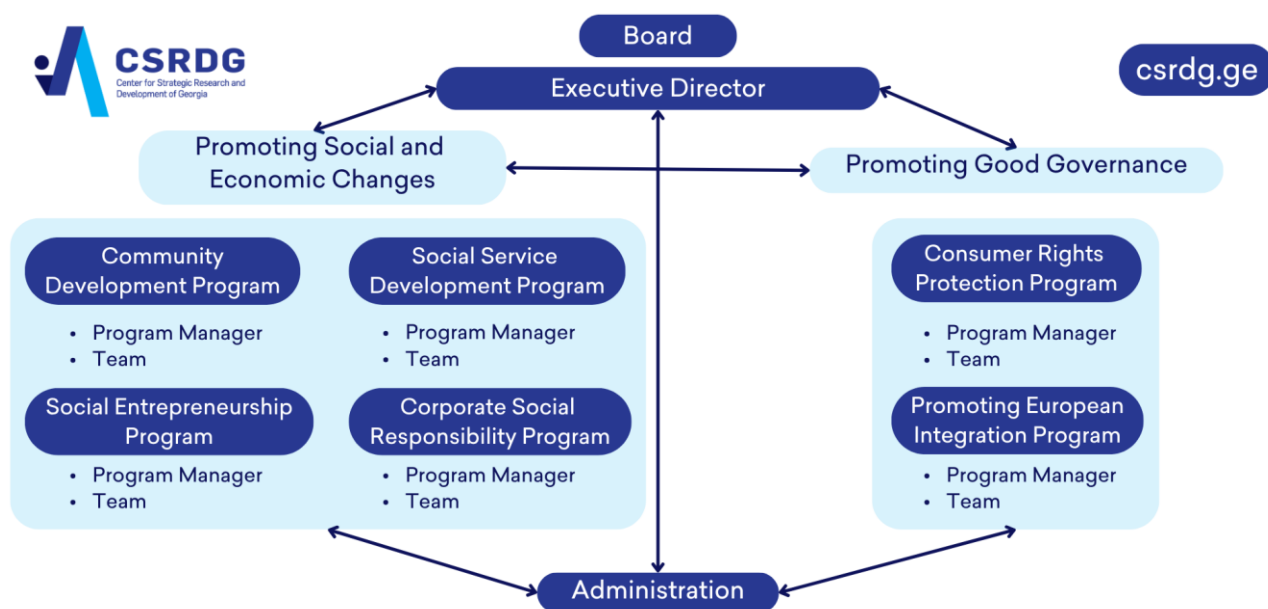
We contribute to the sustainable development of the country by promoting democratic values, and strengthening cross-sector partnerships.

Vision:

We respect the equality and human dignity; we believe that high civil responsibility, professional competence, mutual cooperation and solidarity are the prerequisites for the development of the country.

Strategic Objective: Promoting an active civil society, socially responsible business and good governance for poverty alleviation and sustainable development of the country.

Organizational Structure



Our team

1. Eka Urushadze 2. Eka Datuashvili 3. Nino Vasadze 4. Vakhtang Kobaladze 5. Maka Asambadze 6. Manana Mchedlishvili 7. Kristine Kandelaki 8. Dodo Gokadze 9. Ekaterine (Ana) Iluridze 10. Natia Metreveli 11. Zurab Tatanashvili 12. Ana Nadirashvili 13. Lia Todua 14. Nino Kituashvili	15. Tamar Gobejishvili 16. Lela Khoperia 17. Nona Aladashvili 18. Levan Rostomashvili 19. Ketevan Kalandadze 20. Nia Chelidze 21. David Chikvaidze 22. Ana Philauri 23. Mariam Mchedlishvili 24. Nini Khugashvili 25. Nini Gelashvili 26. Gvantsa Gilauri
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Financial Statement for the Year Ended December 31, 2025

Funding from donors by years:

- **2021 – GEL 3,903,783**
- **2022 – GEL 4,307,501**
- **2023 – GEL 4,588,116**
- **2024- GEL 3,898,703**
- **2025- GEL 1,797,887**

Annual income - 2025

Source	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Funding from donors	3,903,783	4,307,501	4,588,116	3,898,703	1,531,582
From individual contributions	27,222	126,241	190,962	81,299	133,082
Income from services provided	41,786	3,390	139,602	234,075	133,223
Total	3,972,791	4,437,132	4,918,680	4,214,077	1,797,887

Brief Information on Activities Implemented in 2025

- The organization implemented 7 grant-funded projects and 3 consultancy service engagements;
- Financial support was provided to 7 small community/family businesses, contributing to women's economic empowerment and local economic development;
- A comprehensive capacity-building program was delivered for women entrepreneurs, including 5 trainings/meetings, mentoring, and individual consultations in business development and financial management. The program engaged 7 women entrepreneurs and 5 mentor organizations;
- 1 online crowdfunding campaign was implemented, enabling the expansion of social services to an additional 30 beneficiaries;
- With the involvement of CSRDG experts, two cycles of 3-day trainings were conducted for 35 participants from regions of Georgia on alternative resource mobilization methods, including business partnerships and crowdfunding;
- A study on the ecosystem of community foundations and international practices was conducted, covering European experiences;
- CSRDG continued active participation in the [European Community Foundation Initiative \(ECFI\)](#). As part of this, representatives participated in two international events: a study visit to Hungary and an event in Naples, where CSRDG presented its experience in youth engagement and community development;
- 7 explanatory animations on EU Association Agreement topics were developed and published on [asocireba.ge](#) and [momxmarebeli.ge](#);
- Educational materials on food safety were developed, including 6 short animations, 1 brochure, 6 coloring materials for children, 1 online quiz, and 14 digital posters;
- A two-day training seminar on food safety was conducted for 19 representatives from 18 media outlets;
- A media competition on food safety was organized, and 3 winners were awarded;
- 7 information and awareness-raising meetings on the activities of the National Food Agency were conducted across regions of Georgia, engaging 183 participants from various sectors;
- A total of 173 samples (31 margarine, 92 bread, 35 margarine, and 15 oil samples) were collected and tested across 17 municipalities, including testing in international laboratories;
- 3 food safety monitoring initiatives were implemented (honey, vegetable fats, bread and oil);
- Analytical work and recommendations contributed to the tightening of trans-fat regulations in 2025, aligning them with EU standards and international best practices;

- Activities under the social services development program contributed to improving the homecare system, including reducing access barriers and integrating performance indicators into the monitoring system;
- Working meetings were conducted for 34 representatives of social service provider organizations on improving the homecare program;
- In Bolnisi, thematic work resulted in the development of an early intervention program plan, including practical support (analysis, budgeting, study visit), laying the foundation for new social service provision in the region;
- CSRDG experts participated in meetings organized by international organizations ([WHO](#), [ADB](#), and others), presenting recommendations on improving monitoring and evaluation systems and rights-based service delivery;
- In pro bono activities, 23 consultants from 6 companies contributed a total of 203 pro bono hours;
- Through CSRDG mediation, 12 pro bono partnership projects were implemented between companies and civil society organizations, including 6 individual consultations and 6 thematic webinars (marketing, finance, legal, AI, Excel, etc.);
- 6 organizations received tailored consultancy support, while 322 participants benefited from webinars and workshops;
- CSRDG expanded its CSR advisory services and updated offerings on the [CSR Knowledge Hub](#);
- An 8-month consultancy project resulted in the preparation of a large private company's first GRI-aligned sustainability report;
- CSRDG experts provided international advisory support to companies pursuing B Corp certification;
- The consumer protection program provided 70 consultations to citizens on various legal and non-legal issues;
- Under the social enterprise program, 19 social enterprises were supported, including 10 startups, 3 in development, and 6 in expansion stages;
- In 2025, the impact fund Actio continued providing financial and technical support to social enterprises. Its portfolio includes 6 enterprises, which expanded production, developed new products and sales channels, increased revenues, and strengthened social impact across inclusive employment, environmental protection, and cultural heritage;
- Total grant funding provided to social enterprises amounted to GEL 212,962, including GEL 35,145 for startups and GEL 177,817 for development;
- CSRDG conducted 67 trainings, seminars, and workshops of various formats and topics for social enterprises, community groups/organizations, civil society organizations, as well as representatives of the private sector and media. A total of 1,235 participants attended these events, including 1,033 women and 202 men.

Informational and educational animations:

- [Why this law is a „Russian Law“](#)
- [European Union Foreign and Security Policy](#)
- [Competition law](#)
- [Management of Dangerous Chemicals](#)
- [Auto-transport regulation](#)
- [Corporate social responsibility \(CSR\)](#)
- [European food legislation](#)
- [Food of Animal Origin](#)
- [Healthy eating and negative properties of food products](#)
- [Food storage and its impact on quality and safety](#)
- [National Food Agency Hotline](#)
- [European Integration and Food safety](#)
- [Consumer Rights – Information about Food Products](#)
- [Consumer Rights – Food Safety](#)

Events

- Online crowdfunding campaign;
- Presentation and discussion of the monitoring report on state control of honey safety;
- Presentation and discussion of the monitoring report on state control of bread and oil safety.

Research / Reports

- A study on the ecosystem of community foundations and international experience was conducted, covering the analysis of their concept, evolution, governance, and funding models, and providing a comparative overview of both local and European practices;
- Monitoring reports on state control of honey, bread, and oil safety were prepared and discussed.

Implemented and ongoing projects

- Civic Engagement, Social Responsibility and Good Governance(Donor: Brot für die Welt)
- Sustainable Models of Mobile Elderly Care in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia (Donor: Austrian Development Agency)
- Empowering Women for Change (Donor: The United Nations Development Programme)
- COLLABORATE FOR IMPACT - Cooperation for change-Development of Social Entrepreneurship and Social Investment for Economic and Social Empowerment in Easter Partnership Countries (Donor: European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations)
- Civil Society Initiative -Sustainable, Open and Accountable Civil Society Organizations for the Development of Georgia (Donor: European Union; Konrad Adenauer Stiftung)
- Capacitated Agricultural Practices and Consumer Awareness (Donor: European Union)
- Strengthening Citizen Participation in Azerbaijan (Donor: The programme is co-financed by the European Union and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)).

Relevance of our Programs with Sustainable Development Goals

Goal	CSR DG's Programs	Page
Goal 1 – No Poverty	Community Development; Social Entrepreneurship;	11; 23; 36;
Goal 2 – Zero Hunger		
Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being	Rights Based Social Service	23;
Goal 4 – Quality Education	Community Development, CSR- Program; Social Entrepreneurship;	11; 20; 23; 36;
Goal 5 – Gender Equality	Community Development; European Integration;	11; 36; 40;
Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation		
Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy		
Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth	Community Development; CSR- Program; Social Entrepreneurship;	11; 20; 23; 36;

Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure		
Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities		
Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	Community Development;	11; 40;
Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	Community Development; CSR Development;	11; 19; 40;
Goal 13 – Climate Action		
Goal 14 – Life Below Water		
Goal 15 – Life on Land		
Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions		
Goal 17 – Partnerships for Goals		

Programs

In 2025, the organization's work was carried out under two main strategic directions, which serve to achieve the mission of the organization:

- Promotion of Social and Economic Changes;
- Promotion of Good Governance;

Programs that are part of our daily activities are grouped under these directions.

The strategic objective of the **Social and Economic Development direction** is to promote increased social responsibility among civil society, businesses, and citizens in the country. This direction brings together four programs within the organization: community development, social services development, corporate social responsibility, and social entrepreneurship development.

Community Development Program (Village and community levels) aims at strengthening institutional, advocacy, and resource mobilization capacities within communities to enable community members to actively and meaningfully contribute to local development.

Social Service Development Program aims at developing of the rights-based social service in civil and public sectors in Georgia, to promote and respect social, cultural and economic rights of vulnerable individuals.

Social Entrepreneurship (SE) – is the effective way for economic inclusion of vulnerable and socially unprotected groups in environmental and social problem solving processes. With help of SE it is possible to tackle social problems that aren't in the focus of business companies interest, and for solution of which there are no sufficient resources in government.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) - CSR concept and practice contribute to the social and environmental welfare in all sectors. For business companies it is important to understand responsibility they have towards society and to play active role in sustainable development of the country.

Community Development Program

CSR DG has been working on community development since 1998. The primary goal of this program is to empower civil society in various regions and provide support to community leaders, civil organizations, and initiative groups. The aim is to enable these groups to better represent their communities' interests and address the prevailing needs effectively.

To accomplish this, the program operates in the following key areas:

- Enhancing the operational environment for community organizations and initiative groups.
- Providing financial support for community initiatives and projects.
- Strengthening existing networks of community organizations throughout the country.
- Promoting philanthropy and introducing new mechanisms to mobilize local resources.

While the program's activities cover the entire country, it focuses intensively on regions such as Kakheti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Guria.

Improving the operational environment of community organizations/initiative groups, including strengthening their networks and developing their capacities

In pursuit of this objective, the program encompasses various activities conducted by the Community Development Resource Center (CDRC.GE). This includes the maintenance of a database of community groups and organizations, regularly updating the map, provision of essential information and news to community organizations, and active participation in coalitions of organizations dedicated to national-level community development. The program also involves organizing collaborative meetings among community organizations, notably the annual forum for community leaders

- Updating the Database of Community Groups/Organizations

The data on active community organizations nationwide is regularly updated to ensure accuracy and relevance. Against the backdrop of ongoing complex political developments, the latest update was carried out in July 2025. Information was verified through telephone surveys, and the results were reflected on the map of community development resource center special portal (cdrc.ge).

In the previous update (2024), the database recorded 114 active community organizations or groups. However, the telephone survey revealed that, due to the current difficult circumstances, 78 of these organizations/groups (68% of community organizations) have unfortunately suspended their activities. Only 36 community groups (approximately 32%) continue to operate, although their future functionality remains uncertain. Most of these groups are completing the final stages of ongoing projects, after which they are more likely to suspend operations.

- Financial Support for Community Initiatives and Projects

Within the framework of a UN Development Programme-supported project, covering the regions of Kakheti, Guria, and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, financial assistance was provided to women entrepreneurs living in rural areas and small settlements. The project aimed to promote women's economic empowerment at the local level and actively involved business mentors drawn from CSRDG's partner, experienced community and civic organizations.

The mentors were selected from five community based organizations and provided support to selected seven women entrepreneurs. Their role focused on developing the entrepreneurial and leadership capacities of women living in rural areas, thereby contributing to the enhancement of women's role in local economic development.

At the local level, the selection of the women entrepreneurs was based on an open competition. As a result, seven women received small grants in the form of essential equipment and machinery to support the development of their businesses.

The description of supported businesses is as follows:

1.Kvareli Municipality, Zinobiani

Project Title: "Nino's Cakes"

Project Value: 3,122 GEL

"Nino's Cakes" is a small family initiative aimed at creating handmade, delicious, and high-quality confectionery for local customers. Within the project, a confectionery production space was set up, providing a foundation for a stable and growing business. The purchased item includes a display refrigerator with a vertical rotating axis, which ensures optimal storage and effective presentation of cakes and other confectionery products. The project contributed to:

- Economic empowerment and self-employment of women
- Offering high-quality and diverse products to customers

2.Lagodekhi Municipality, Heretiskari

Project Title: "Production of Developmental Play Mats for Children"

Project Value: 4,049.35 GEL

The project aims to produce safe, diverse, and development-oriented play mats for children. The initiative is based on quality, comfort, and support for children's cognitive and motor skills development. It expands the sewing workshop and production capacity, meeting local market demand and creating potential for future export markets. Purchased items include a sewing machine, laptop, and printer, as well as improvements to the workspace with a gas heater and curtain blinds, creating a comfortable and efficient working environment. The project contributed to:

- Development of local production and creation of high-quality children's products
- Creating opportunities to enter new markets

3.Ozurgeti Municipality, Jumati

Project Title: "Support for Hazelnut Farming"

Project Value: 3,271.19 GEL

The project serves to support farmers in the Jumati community and improve hazelnut production through modern services. It aims to provide hazelnut farming services to approximately 400 households, simplifying processing and improving the socio-economic status of the grantee's family. The project includes providing local farmers with services using a hazelnut sorting machine and supporting small family business development and employment of family members. Purchased items include a hazelnut sorting machine, shelling machine, spraying (protection) device, hand cart, and scale, which ensure fast and high-quality services, reduce labor, and increase processing efficiency. The project contributed to:

- Supporting local farmers and simplifying their work
- Increasing agricultural productivity

4.Mestia Municipality, Mulakhi

Project Title: "Bakery"

Project Value: 4,103 GEL

The project aims to create a local bakery to meet the demand of both residents and tourists for high-quality, freshly baked products. The initiative strengthens Mestia's tourism potential. The project includes setting up a bakery with modern equipment and creating a food service facility for both locals and visitors. Purchased items include an electric oven, microwave, planetary mixer, automatic espresso machine, and double-chamber refrigerator, ensuring full production process and high-quality products. The project contributed to:

- Improving tourism services in the region
- Creating employment opportunities

5.Mestia Municipality, Lakhamura

Project Title: "Purchase of a Mower"

Project Value: 3,116 GEL

The project aims to support livestock farming and increase the production of traditional, natural dairy products. The initiative is based on efficient use of local resources and strengthening the family farm. The project includes equipping the family farm with proper tools to increase nutritious feed production for livestock and fully cultivate land, as well as growing family production, branding artisanal cheese, and entering new markets. Purchased items include a mowing tractor and segmented cutting blade, which simplify mowing, increase feed production efficiency, and reduce farm costs. The project contributed to:

- Developing livestock farming and increasing production
- Preserving and promoting traditional, natural products

6.Khobi Municipality, Khobi

Project Title: "Family Tailor Workshop 'Elegance'"

Project Value: 3,770 GEL

The project serves to develop a family tailoring workshop offering high-quality, customized services. It includes purchasing and integrating new sewing machines and creating additional jobs, including an assistant tailor and an intern. Purchased items include sewing machines, tailor's mannequin, and iron, significantly increasing production capacity, improving workflow efficiency, and providing high-quality services. The project contributed to:

- Creating new jobs
- Increasing availability of quality services on the local market

7.Lanchkhuti Municipality, Lanchkhuti

Project Title: "Digital Catalog"

Project Value: 4,095.36 GEL

The project aims to digitally transform the sewing workshop's brand and simplify customer communication using modern technologies, ensuring professional presentation and easy customer access. It includes creating a sample collection, organizing a professional photoshoot for the online catalog, developing a digital catalog with QR code integration, and improving order processing efficiency. Purchased items include a laptop, camera, lighting, and background fabric, ensuring high-quality visual content, professional product presentation, and effective use of digital platforms. The project contributed to:

- Increasing brand awareness and market positioning
- Simplifying communication with customers and improving sales
- Creating opportunities to enter new markets

- Capacity Building of Women Entrepreneurs

Financial support was complemented by a series of educational activities aimed at enhancing the capacities of the selected women entrepreneurs. In the initial phase, to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing among women mentors and plan the subsequent steps of the project, two joint in-person meetings and six online meetings were organized. The main topics discussed during these meetings included:

- Alignment on the roles and responsibilities of the mentors;
- Definition of the competition terms, application forms, deadlines, and methods of disseminating information to entrepreneurs;
- Review of competition results;
- Agreement on procedures for the procurement of equipment and inventory.

The primary goal of these meetings was to ensure a shared understanding of the program framework and approach, as well as to facilitate effective coordination among project participants.

The second phase of the educational activities focused directly on strengthening the network of women entrepreneurs. At the initial stage, the needs of selected entrepreneurs were identified individually by mentors using a pre-developed methodology. The results were reviewed during a project team meeting, attended by a CSRDG pro bono expert. During this meeting, specific topics, schedules, and potential facilitators for trainings, consultations, and experience-sharing sessions were agreed upon.

According to this plan, a total of five online trainings/meetings involving the entrepreneurs and mentors were conducted on the following topics:

1. How to Develop a Business – 21 participants
2. Social Media Marketing – 12 participants
3. Financial Literacy – 15 participants
4. Social Entrepreneurship – 10 participants
5. Joint Workshop on Food Safety – 7 participants

In addition, interested women entrepreneurs and mentors participated in joint pro bono trainings organized by CSRDG on:

- Application of Artificial Intelligence
- Excel Essentials: Functions and Formulas
- Financial Basics: Profit, Loss & Taxes

All of these 3 trainings were conducted by professionals from Credo Bank.

Individual consultations tailored to the needs of women entrepreneurs were provided by women mentors, CSRDG representatives, and pro bono experts. Four in-depth consultations were conducted, encompassing both online and in-person meetings. Support was provided to the following entrepreneurs:

1.Sewing Enterprise – Khobi, Samgrelo

A consultation was held for the owner of a small sewing enterprise focused on online marketing. The company's existing social media channels, posting frequency, and content quality were analyzed. Recommendations included:

Technical: Converting the company page into an official business page and setting up a Business Manager account;

Content-related: Planning and structuring content, highlighting specific collections, and promoting them according to seasonal trends.

Implementation of these recommendations has improved the enterprise's online visibility and sales performance.

2.LLC “GNT” – Child Development Toys- Lagodekhi, Kakheti

During communication with the founder, the need for additional management consultations was identified, particularly in financial administration, accounting, and inventory management. A consultation was conducted by the Head of ACG Consulting with the company representative. Key challenges were identified in bookkeeping, stock management, and documentation required by the Revenue Service. Following the consultation, a dedicated staff member was appointed to assist in managing ongoing obligations, and training was provided in financial accounting and administration. As a result, these processes were fully institutionalized within the company’s internal system.

3.“Nino’s Cakes” –Zinobiani, Kakheti

The consultation identified a need for support in social media management. The small enterprise lacked official social media pages, limiting customer communication and product visibility. Official Facebook and Instagram pages were created, providing a foundation for future online marketing activities and sales growth.

4.Cheese Production – Lakhamura, Upper Svaneti

The consultation revealed a need for support in branding and social media promotion. The enterprise lacked a logo, visual identity, labeling, and official social media pages. With the support of the consulting team, the following were developed:

- Product name and logo;
- Brand book and packaging design;
- Official Facebook and Instagram pages.

These improvements are expected to strengthen brand identity and enhance market positioning and visibility.

In addition to individual consultations, online meetings were organized to strengthen networks and facilitate experience-sharing among women entrepreneurs. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss success and failure factors and share lessons learned. Examples include:

- Two meetings with experienced women entrepreneurs: a dairy producer and a guesthouse owner, who is also a social media marketing specialist;
- Two joint meetings with women mentors and entrepreneurs focused on sharing experiences and identifying further needs.

Promotion of philanthropy and introduction of new mechanisms for mobilizing local resources

The organization began its activities in this direction in 2020 and, along with taking the first important steps, has been able to accumulate considerable experience. The activities mainly include popularizing the concept in society, providing more information and

education on its examples and forms, and introducing and promoting models such as Community Foundations and crowdfunding.

- Crowdfunding Campaign

In 2025, the fundraising environment in Georgia was significantly shaped by a complex political situation. A substantial portion of public donations was directed toward supporting individuals fined under newly adopted repressive legislation – in many cases, 5,000 GEL fines were imposed for blocking roads during peaceful protests. In solidarity, citizens prioritized using crowdfunding to cover these fines. While these actions demonstrated strong civic mobilization, they significantly reduced public engagement with other fundraising campaigns, particularly those focused on long-term or service-oriented initiatives.

In this context, the originally planned Idea Auction – previously piloted by CSRDG in earlier years – could not be held in its traditional format. Instead, it was replaced by an online crowdfunding campaign. Recognizing the urgent challenges faced by social service provider organizations, CSRDG made a strategic decision to leverage its existing network of donors and supporters to implement an online crowdfunding initiative. An open call was disseminated through social media and other channels to civil society organizations delivering social services. As a result, the Batumi Independent Living Center was selected for support. The organization requested funding to train personal assistants for persons with disabilities (PwDs), enabling it to expand services to an additional 30 individuals.

During the two-month crowdfunding campaign, a short video introducing the selected organization and the challenges it aimed to address was widely disseminated via CSRDG’s networks, donor base, and social media channels. The campaign reached over 1,200 people and engaged more than 80 donors, providing direct support to a local civil society organization. The campaign raised 1,200 GEL online, and an additional 1,300 GEL was provided by CSRDG based on the matching funds principle, bringing total support to 2,500 GEL. With these funds, the organization expanded its services in Adjara to an additional 30 beneficiaries, including elderly individuals.

- Educational and Research Activities

Training on Alternative Methods of Resource Mobilization

CSRDG experts, building on accumulated experience, developed a thematic training on resource mobilization and crowdfunding, tailored to the interests and needs of local civil society groups and organizations operating in Georgia.

Within the framework of the REACT for Georgia: Resilient, Engaged, Active Civil Society for Transformation project, funded by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the training “Alternative Methods of Resource Mobilization: Business Collaboration and Crowdfunding” was delivered in two cycles:

- Duration and Format: 3-day live trainings.
- Locations: Kutaisi (Western Georgia) and Surami (Eastern Georgia).

- Participants: 35 representatives from civil society organizations across Georgia.

Objectives:

- Engage CSOs in discussion on alternative sources and mechanisms for resource mobilization.
- Explore possibilities for sustaining operations during crises.
- Examine key topics including: CSO sustainability, financial security, income diversification, and mobilizing resources from the business sector and individual donors.
- Provide in-depth knowledge on crowdfunding as a tool for local resource mobilization, covering both online campaigns and live crowdfunding methods.
- Focus on the “Ideas Auction” methodology to strengthen participants’ practical skills and knowledge in live crowdfunding.

Study

A commissioned expert conducted a study on the ecosystem of community foundations and international experiences. The research explores the concept, evolution, and contemporary role of community foundations as community-based philanthropic institutions. The content and analytical focus of the study were shaped through focus groups and interviews with local stakeholders in Georgia, as well as consultations with an international expert, ensuring that both local perspectives and global expertise were incorporated.

The study presents core definitions, characteristics, governance models, and funding mechanisms that distinguish community foundations from other philanthropic and nonprofit structures. It also examines the historical development of community foundations, both globally and locally, highlighting the factors that have influenced their growth and adaptation in different contexts.

As part of the analysis, selected national experiences from Europe are presented, including case studies of community foundations in Germany, Slovakia, and Romania. The research illustrates how community foundations develop within diverse social and political ecosystems and identifies lessons that can inform future initiatives in Georgia.

The final Georgian version of the research, along with a concise English summary, will be published and made available on the program’s special portal: cdrc.ge

- Participation in International Networks and Events

CSR DG continues to be actively engaged in the European Community Foundation Initiative (ECFI), participating in its learning and experience-sharing activities.

In May 2025, a CSR DG representative took part in a five-day international study visit to Hungary, hosted by the Roots and Wings Foundation. The program aimed to foster dialogue and reflection among professionals working with community foundations across Europe. Despite Hungary facing significant civic and political challenges, the visit highlighted the remarkable development of community foundations in the country in

recent years. Participants had the opportunity to visit several local foundations operating in diverse contexts. Representatives from various countries – including Ukraine, Italy, Turkey, Poland, and the United Kingdom – exchanged experiences, perspectives, and challenges. The knowledge and insights gained during the visit were subsequently shared with the CSR DG team and a local community leaders' group (19 participants).

In October 2025, ECFI organized a two-day interactive event in Naples titled “It’s All About You(th)”, bringing together community foundation practitioners, youth organizations, and philanthropic actors from across Europe. The event focused on empowering young people through community foundations, strengthening youth leadership, involving them in decision-making, and fostering the development of more equitable communities. Approximately 80 participants attended the event.

The program included panel discussions, practical workshops, and site visits. A special session on “Involving Young People in Rural Areas” was facilitated by the CSR DG representative, attended by 25 participants. The session highlighted CSR DG’s work with rural youth through local community initiatives, Youth Leadership Camps, and Idea Auctions. Participants discussed the challenges of working with rural youth, the role of local organizations, and the importance of recognizing young people not as beneficiaries, but as equal partners in community development.

Social Service Development Program

“The beneficiaries are not stranger, vulnerable individuals or groups, they are each of us, who fall in vulnerable situations in one or another stage of life and need support with dignity and respect to our rights” - Zurab Tatanashvili, head of the program.

In 2025, CSR DG was actively engaged in the development of social services, acting as a strong supporter of rights-based social service development. The organization conducted thematic meetings in municipalities of Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti, where civil society actors and local groups discussed challenges related to access to existing services and identified key needs.

During these meetings, several barriers to accessing social services were identified, including lack of information, language barriers, inadequate infrastructure, and stigma. Based on these discussions, specific priorities were identified in each municipality: in Bolnisi – development of early intervention services; in Gardabani – dissemination of information in Georgian and Azerbaijani; in Tetritskaro – increasing awareness of medical and rehabilitation programs; in Marneuli – support for women survivors of violence; in Akhaltsikhe – dissemination of information on rehabilitation and autism-related services; and in Ninotsminda – reducing stigma and strengthening family engagement.

Key Activities:

- Thematic meetings were conducted in six municipalities, where local groups identified priority issues and developed action plans.
- In July, seminars were organized during which participants developed communication strategies aimed at improving public awareness. In Akhaltsikhe, the focus was on programs for children with special needs; in Gardabani, Tetritskaro, and Marneuli – on increasing awareness of specific programs; and in Bolnisi – on procedures for registering as a service provider.
- The CSRDG team conducted an analysis of the state home care program, compared recent changes with the 2024 recommendations, and developed a responsibility matrix, which was shared with relevant stakeholders.
- In May–June, the organization held a series of online meetings involving 34 representatives of social service provider organizations, where participants discussed the implementation status of recommendations from the home care pilot study and identified next steps.
- CSRDG experts participated in meetings organized by WHO, ADB, and other international organizations, where they presented recommendations for improving monitoring and evaluation systems and highlighted the importance of developing rights-based service approaches.

In 2025, CSRDG's activities contributed to a range of positive changes at both national and municipal levels.

- Based on the 2024 study of the home care program and follow-up consultations with service provider organizations, analytical reports were developed to support further program improvement. Compared to the previous year, improvements were observed in both the implementation and evaluation processes of the program: barriers to accessing home care services were reduced, and monitoring systems were strengthened through the integration of efficiency and effectiveness indicators.
- Local groups developed communication plans aimed at increasing public awareness of available social services.
- The readiness of a local organization in Bolnisi to register as a provider of early intervention services has increased. Bottom of Form

Success Case

In 2025, one of CSRDG's key achievements was strengthening the capacities of local organizations. For example, in Bolnisi, thematic meetings led to the development of a plan for establishing an early intervention program. During the process, several critical barriers were identified, including a shortage of qualified personnel and inadequate infrastructure.

CSRDG experts actively supported the local group in planning practical next steps. They conducted an analysis of registration procedures, assisted in developing an activity plan and budget, and organized a study visit to an early intervention service provider organization in Telavi – the “Association for the Protection of Public Interests.”

This initiative became a success story, as the local group was able to take concrete steps toward readiness for registration as a new social service provider, while CSR DG facilitated the transfer of knowledge and practical experience. As a result, a solid foundation was created for the development of early intervention services in the region.

Social Entrepreneurship (SE) program

The Social Enterprise Development Program has been one of CSR DG's strategic priorities since 2009. By supporting social enterprises, we contribute to addressing key societal challenges through sustainable, market-based approaches.

Program works closely with civil society, private sector, and public institutions to promote and strengthen the concept of social entrepreneurship, as CSR DG believes it is an effective tool for advancing social and economic inclusion and responding to social and environmental challenges.

To achieve its goal, the program operates through two strategic directions:

- Strengthening existing social enterprises and supporting the creation of new ones in Georgia;
- Improving the enabling environment for social enterprises.

Key Activities and Results in 2025

Activities aimed at strengthening existing social enterprises in Georgia and supporting the creation of new ones include tailored financial and technical support mechanisms for both operating and start-up social enterprises. Enterprises are selected through a competitive process, and the program team works with selected enterprises over a period of 2–5 years.

In 2025, the Social Entrepreneurship Development Program continued to support social enterprises through customized financial and technical assistance. A total of 19 social enterprises received support under the program, including 10 start-ups, 3 in the development stage, and 6 in the expansion stage (within the Actio portfolio). In 2025, two operating social enterprises were newly funded.

The total amount of grants disbursed to social enterprises in 2025 amounted to GEL 212,962. Of this, GEL 35,145 was allocated to start-ups, while GEL 177,817 was provided as development grants (including GEL 133,780 for enterprises within the Actio portfolio).

Selection of Target Social Enterprises

At the beginning of March 2025, a grant competition was announced to select target social enterprises. The competition aimed to identify social enterprises that are already operating in the market and have a proven business model, but still require additional resources for stable growth. As part of the competition, an information session was held on March 14, where interested organizations received detailed information about the application requirements and selection criteria. The application deadline was April 7.

A total of 19 applications were submitted. During the initial stage, a technical screening was conducted, resulting in the disqualification of two applications due to non-compliance with formal requirements. The remaining 17 applications were reviewed by an independent expert committee, which evaluated each project based on social and economic impact, innovation, and sustainability criteria. The evaluation process was completed on May 2, 2025.

As a result of the competition, two social enterprises - Gogora and Megobari - were selected for funding. Each received financial support of up to EUR 8,000, with a minimum co-financing requirement of 10%. In addition to financial support, the enterprises were provided with long-term professional assistance, including support in business development, marketing, and operational management over a period of 2 to 3 years.

Megobari

Founded in 2017 in Zugdidi, the social enterprise Megobari creates an inclusive and multifunctional space for young people, operating as a free co-working environment during the day and as a social bar in the evening. The enterprise has developed a diversified model that includes a youth hostel, a mobile cultural space Megobus, the region's first DJ school Bzhaminoli, and a professional audio recording studio Megobari Records. These activities support the social and economic inclusion of young people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), promote creative self-expression, and contribute to the financial sustainability of youth-focused programs.

Gogora

Founded in 2021, the social enterprise Gogora produces environmentally friendly, safe, and Montessori-based children's furniture and toys. The enterprise operates in Tbilisi and the Keda municipality, creating employment opportunities for internally displaced persons (IDPs), young people, and mothers from large families. Gogora reinvests 3% of its income into social initiatives, including the creation of play spaces in mountainous regions, improving safety in kindergartens, and supporting child development centers. Through these efforts, the enterprise combines business innovation with inclusive employment and contributes to improving environments for child development.

Consultations and Tailored Technical Assistance

Within the program, social enterprises are provided with tailored technical assistance based on their specific needs.

Interested social entrepreneurs were offered thematic trainings in business development. In particular, an online training on Effective Sales was conducted, attended by representatives of 11 social enterprises. The training covered modern sales techniques, negotiation skills, and customer relationship management. Through practical exercises and experience sharing, participants gained knowledge that will support the growth of their sales and overall business development.

In addition, several trainings and information sessions were held on legislative changes, where social enterprises were introduced to new regulations and received legal guidance. A total of up to 50 participants attended these sessions.

Consulting services provided to social enterprises covered a wide range of topics and were tailored to the needs of each enterprise. These included business plan development, accounting and financial management, brand development, digital marketing and advertising strategies (including Google Ads), communication strategies, operational systems development, rights-based operational procedures, development of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems, legal issues, labor relations, and more.

Improving the Enabling Environment

Efforts to improve the enabling environment for social enterprises focused on promoting the concept and increasing visibility of the sector. [The social entrepreneurship information portal](#) was updated with new content.

Program Implementation Framework

The program was implemented within the framework of the following projects:

Civic Engagement, Social Responsibility and Good Governance (continuation) – funded by Bread for the World (Germany)

Collaborate for Impact – funded by the European Union

Impact Fund Actio

Impact Fund Actio was established in 2022 by the Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSR DG). Actio operates under CSR DG's umbrella and does not constitute a separate legal entity. This operational model enables Actio to leverage CSR DG's accumulated resources, including its strong reputation and trust among stakeholders, established local and international networks, as well as its human and administrative capacities.

Actio was founded with financial and technical support from the EU-funded project "Collaborate for Impact", which concluded in August 2025. The project's lead implementing organization, Impact Europe, played a significant role in fostering the development of the impact investment ecosystem in Eastern Europe.

Following the completion of the project, Actio has continued to pursue its mission of generating tangible and sustainable social impact in partnership with social enterprises, impact investors, and key stakeholders. Its work focuses on areas such as work integration and education of vulnerable groups, environmental protection, and preservation of cultural heritage.

Investors of Actio

Actio has been able to provide both financial and technical support to social enterprises through a combination of EU funding and contributions from private investors and partners.

The following resources have been mobilized:

European Union	Impact Investors	Impact Partners	Impact Supporters
€300,000	€108,000	€9000	€1800

Together with the European Union, Actio's contributors include Impact Investors:

Impact Investors	Impact Partners	Impact Supporters
Microbank MBC	Vladimer Sakvarelidze	Ketevan Tchitanava
Nikoloz Alavidze		Maia Tsereteli
Magic Foundation		

Currently, the Actio Impact Fund portfolio includes six social enterprises: Babale, Istoriali, Tene, Chempi, Dadari, and Dediko. Their selection was carried out in two stages, with final decisions made by the Investment Committee.

The supported enterprises operate in areas such as inclusive employment, empowerment of vulnerable groups, environmental protection, cultural heritage, and local economic development. The program's financial and professional support contributed to the expansion of production, development of new products and sales channels, increased revenues, and strengthened social impact.

Detailed information on the achievements and results of individual enterprises is provided in the annex: [**Results and Achievements of Supported Social Enterprises in 2025.**](#)

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program

Since 2004, the Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSR DG) has been implementing its Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility (CSR) Development Program and has been among the pioneering organizations in Georgia actively promoting CSR. Over the years, the program has worked to advance understanding of Corporate Sustainability and raise awareness across sectors through a wide range of activities, including research, public awareness campaigns, training sessions, seminars, stakeholder forums, conferences, and national awards. CSR DG collaborates closely with government agencies, businesses of different sizes, higher education institutions, and the media to foster a culture of responsible and sustainable business practices in Georgia.

1. Promoting the Pro Bono Concept and Practice in Georgia

Since establishing the Georgian Pro Bono Network in 2015, CSR DG has been facilitating cooperation between companies willing to share their expertise and civil society organizations in need of professional support. By 2025, the network had grown to 30 members. CSR DG also coordinates the Pro Bono Mediation Initiative, which connects corporate volunteers with organizations based on their specific needs and the volunteers' areas of expertise.

As part of this initiative, CSR DG facilitates connections between companies and civil society organizations, supporting the full process of pro bono service delivery. In addition to responding to requests received from civil society organizations, the program also proactively contacted potential beneficiaries to identify their needs for pro bono support. Several scoping meetings were held with civil society organizations and social enterprises to assess their needs and define the scope of assistance required.

In 2025, CSR DG mediated 12 partnership projects between companies and beneficiary non-profit organizations. Descriptions of these cases are available on the dedicated [webpage](#). These projects included six tailored consulting services and six online webinars covering topics such as marketing and sales, legal issues, finance and tax law, advanced Excel functions, video content creation, and the use of artificial intelligence.

A total of 23 professionals from six business companies contributed 203 pro bono hours. As a result, six social benefit organizations received tailored consulting support, while 322 individuals from various civil society organizations and social enterprises benefited from the webinars and workshops.

CSR DG also remained actively engaged internationally by participating in online activities of the Global Pro Bono Network and attending its General Assemblies during the year.

2. Supporting CSR and Sustainability among Businesses

In 2025, CSR DG's Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability team made significant progress in expanding and institutionalizing its consultancy services for private sector actors and other interested stakeholders. This strategic direction was driven by growing demand from businesses for qualified support in developing sustainability strategies, programs, and reporting practices. Updated service offerings are available on the [CSR Knowledge Hub](#).

Building on 20 years of experience in the field of corporate responsibility and sustainability, CSR DG provides expert support to companies of all sizes operating in Georgia, helping them turn their vision and goals into reality and maximize the benefits of responsible business practices. The organization's services include trainings and seminars, tailored advisory support based on specific needs, and consulting support for B Corp certification.

In April, CSR DG launched a large-scale consultancy project with SOCAR Energy Georgia (SEG), one of the country's largest oil and gas companies. The eight-month project resulted in SOCAR Energy Georgia's first sustainability report, prepared in alignment with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards. The report is available at the [following link](#).

In addition, CSR DG experts supported the small Portuguese company [Qxote](#) in completing the B Impact Assessment and preparing for B Corp certification. This consultancy was implemented within the framework of B Lab Europe's B Leaders Program, which supports the development of certified consultants in emerging markets.

CSR DG continued its active participation in national and international corporate responsibility and sustainability networks. The team engaged in the work of Global Compact Network Georgia, including meetings of working groups under various Action Platforms. In March, the Head of the Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability Program was invited to contribute to the Irish-led Democracy Initiative Brand Focus Group. Several working meetings were held with experts from across Europe to explore the role of brand positioning in strengthening democratic values.

The Head of the Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability Program also contributed as a speaker and lecturer to a number of capacity-building events, including the JMO Spring School, "CSR in the European Union: Experience for Georgia"; working meetings of Georgian CSOs, CBOs, and social enterprises on "Alternative Methods of Resource Mobilization: Business Collaboration and Crowdfunding"; and workshops on "Fundamentals of Organizing Effective and Sustainable Civil Initiatives," where corporate responsibility and sustainability issues were discussed.

3. CSR Web Platform

CSR DG's [CSR Information Hub](#) remains the only Georgian online platform dedicated specifically to corporate social responsibility, sustainability, and responsible business. The platform offers resources, news, and practical examples from Georgia and abroad, serving as an important knowledge-sharing space for businesses, civil society organizations, and other interested stakeholders.

Good Governance Promotion Direction aims to support open and needs-based governance by strengthening cooperation and professional dialogue between public institutions and civil society. The main objective of this direction is to promote knowledge sharing and the development of approaches based on practical experience. The program contributes to increasing public awareness on social and environmental issues and facilitates knowledge exchange among various stakeholders.

Building on the organization's expertise and international experience, the program supports the improvement of existing practices in social service delivery, environmental protection, and consumer rights, while also promoting the introduction of international best practices in these areas.

To this end, analytical materials are developed and shared, and experience is exchanged at both national and local levels through cooperation and professional dialogue with public institutions and other stakeholders.

This direction includes two main programs: the Consumer Protection Program and the European Integration Support Program.

Consumer Rights Protection Program – promotes the development of relevant policies and practices and raises consumer awareness, enabling individuals to better understand and exercise their rights.

European Integration Support Program – aims to increase public awareness and strengthen the capacities of organizations to better understand and apply social, economic, and cultural issues in practice.

Within the Good Governance Promotion direction, the organization's long-term work and various initiatives implemented since 1998 have made a significant contribution to the development of local self-governance in Georgia. Our approach to working with local authorities is based on analysis and practical support, enabling the identification of key challenges and the improvement of practices through collaboration, recommendations, and advisory support.

In 2025, at both national and local levels, the organization actively cooperated with various public institutions to support the development and refinement of the state home care program. A detailed description of these activities is provided under the Social Services Development Program.

Consumer Rights Protection Program

The Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia started to work on consumer rights protection in 2009. The primary objective of this program is to establish an effective system for protecting consumer rights in Georgia.

Main Activities of the Program:

- Raising public awareness
- Monitoring of state structures and consumer market
- Advocacy for improvement of consumer protection system
- Consultation of consumers.

Raising Public Awareness

The program has developed a range of educational materials on food safety related issues: 6 short animations ([Healthy eating and negative properties of food products](#); [Food storage and its impact on quality and safety](#); [National Food Agency Hotline](#); [European Integration and Food safety](#); [Consumer Rights – Information about Food Products](#); [Consumer Rights – Food Safety](#)), 1 booklet, 6 coloring books for children, 1 online quiz, and 14 electronic posters. Besides, 5 booklets covering food safety issues, produced by the program in 2023-2024 were re-printed.

In a humoristic style, the above-mentioned information materials are ought to educate general public about overall food safety and healthy diet issues, as well as about importance of European integration for improvement of food safety conditions in the country.

The materials were published on the website and Facebook page [momxmarebeli.ge](#). Hard copies of booklets and coloring books were distributed to citizens in regions and Tbilisi. The online quiz was published on the website [on.ge](#) (shared on the website [momxmarebeli.ge](#)).

The program organized a two-day long informational-educational workshop on food safety issues for 19 representatives of 18 media outlets. Representatives of the National Food Agency (NFA) also participated in the workshop, who presented their activities to the audience and engaged in a discussion with them.

The program conducted a competition for media representatives for the best media products that promote food safety in Georgia. The applications were reviewed by the program staff and a jury comprised of three media/food safety experts. 3 winners were selected, which were awarded smart phones, as prizes.

The program conducted 7 informational-educational meetings in regions of Georgia on the theme NFA Activities. Regional representatives of the NFA made presentations about the activities and challenges of the agency, followed by questions and answers and discussion. Representatives of public agencies, non-governmental, educational organisations, media and business sectors attended the events - 183 persons in total.

Monitoring of State Structures and Consumer Market

The program has concluded its monitoring initiative to assess safety threats and official oversight of honey safety in Georgia. The study examined the current safety control mechanisms for honey, as well as identified key obstacles and challenges to ensure the safety of honey.

Afterwards, in cooperation with its regional CSO grantees/partners, the program conducted 2 monitoring campaigns: 1) on safety of vegetable fats and 2) on safety of bread and oil in Georgia. The studies covered overall conditions of the official safety control of above-mentioned products. Besides, the first study specifically focused on testing of industrial trans-fats. The monitoring reports were published on the website momxmarebeli.ge.

In the framework of the above-mentioned monitoring, the regional partner CSOs of CSRDG have concluded laboratory testing of 31 margarine samples purchased on the market in 13 municipalities of Georgia and conducted laboratory testing of 92 bread samples purchased on the market in 17 municipalities of Georgia. While CSRDG itself purchased 35 samples of margarines and 15 samples of vegetable oils in Tbilisi. The regional CSOs submitted the samples to local laboratories, while CSRDG sent the samples abroad. In Georgia, the samples were tested for a wide range of food contaminants. The margarine samples sent abroad were tested for the content of industrial trans-fats and oils for 3 contaminants in accordance with the norms in force in the European Union.

1 violation was revealed among the margarine samples tested abroad, which turned out to also violate a Georgian norm on industrial trans-fats. Excessive level of radiation was detected in 2 bread samples. However, taking into account the measurement uncertainty, results could have been within the norm.

Excessive level of 3-MCPD, according to the EU norm, was detected in 1 oil sample. However, the result was in line with the current Georgian norm. Although such a result shall be considered as a violation from June 1, 2026, when respective Georgian Regulation is approximated with the EU Regulation. At the same time, violations of labeling requirements were detected on 10 bread samples.

Testing and label monitoring results of bread and oil products were published on the website momxmarebeli.ge.

Advocacy for improvement of consumer protection system

Monitoring reports, which included analytical assessments, recommendations, and identified issues, were shared with the relevant public institutions - the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the National Food Agency, the Revenue Service Customs Department, and the Parliament.

The key findings and observations of the reports were presented through public and working meetings, ensuring opportunities for professional dialogue and information exchange with relevant institutions and other stakeholders.

Within the discussion of issues related to margarine samples, according to the National Food Agency, the importer conducted laboratory testing of the product based on the

Agency's recommendation. The Agency also independently collected samples and carried out testing in the same laboratory. The results confirmed that none of the samples exceeded the trans - fat limits established in Georgia.

In relation to bread samples, the Agency reported that, as a result of inspections carried out with business operators, no excessive levels of radiation were detected in the tested samples. At the same time, violations of labeling requirements and other deficiencies were identified during the inspection of 11 business operators, including:

- significant breaches of hygiene standards, which in one case led to the closure of operations;
- operation without proper registration -in 7 cases, resulting in suspension of activities until registration was completed;
- repeated violations of consumer information requirements (within one year) - in 2 cases.

The Agency provided recommendations to the relevant entities to address the identified issues and took appropriate measures in accordance with the legislation, including imposing fines.

Following the review of the analytical material on the safety of vegetable fats, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture decided to update the trans-fat standards and align them more closely with relevant EU standards. These changes were reflected in legislative amendments adopted on October 13, 2025.

The program's activities contributed to improving practices in the field of food safety and strengthening the level of consumer protection.

Consultation of Consumers

The program provided 70 consultations to citizens on various legal and non-legal issues, which helped them protect their rights and interests as consumers.

Success Story - Tightening of Trans-fat Norm

During the reporting year, CSRDG conducted an analytical assessment of state control over the safety of margarines and spreads, with particular focus on industrial trans - fats. The analysis identified opportunities to improve existing regulations in line with international practices.

Through the sharing of analytical materials and professional dialogue, relevant institutions reviewed the findings, and in 2025, the trans- fat standard was updated, bringing it closer in line with EU standards and international best practices. Detailed information can be found on this [link](#).

This process contributed to improving approaches in the field of food safety and strengthening the protection of consumer health. Detailed information can be found on this [link](#).

European Integration Support Program

Following the signing of the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union in 2014, CSRDG has been supporting the engagement of regional civil society organizations in the European integration process, including by strengthening their knowledge and building capacities for practical participation.

The aim of this direction is to present the Association Agreement in a more accessible and understandable way for the public, highlighting its practical relevance across different sectors. At the same time, the program contributes to increasing public awareness and fostering constructive engagement of various stakeholders in ongoing processes.

Main activities:

- Preparation of expert analytical materials on the areas covered by the Association Agreement and visualization of key findings;
- Trainings and information sessions for representatives of civil society organizations on Association Agreement-related topics;
- Development of open and accessible educational resources, including short explanatory videos and knowledge assessment tools;
- Small grants (EUR 5,000–10,000) to support regional initiatives that promote better understanding and practical application of Association Agreement-related topics at the local level.

Open access to educational resources related to the Association Agreement:

The EU–Georgia Association Agreement covers more than 30 sectors and is a comprehensive and technically complex document. To make its provisions more accessible and easier to understand for the public, short, simple, and engaging videos are developed on various topics within the framework of the Association Agenda.

These videos are accompanied by explanatory materials and knowledge assessment tools, helping users better understand the information. The resources are available on the [website](#).

At the end of 2024, seven informational and educational explanatory animations were produced and published on the website in early 2025, covering various areas of the Association Agreement ([Why this law is a „Russian Law“](#); [European Union Foreign and Security Policy](#); [Competition law](#); [Management of Dangerous Chemicals](#); [Auto-transport regulation](#); [Corporate social responsibility \(CSR\)](#); [European food legislation](#); [Food of Animal Origin](#)).

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