


# 2017

## Annual Report



# CSR DG

Center for Strategic Research and  
Development of Georgia

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## Foundation “Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia”

Field of Activity – Civil Society Organization

Back in 1995, the concept of a civil society organization was mostly unfamiliar to the Georgian society; yet everyone agreed that only this type of an organization was able to carry out activities and services that are beneficial for the population. That was precisely the rationale behind creation of the [Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia \(CSR DG\)](#) in July 1995.

Since then, our team has been focused on results that can improve the lives of individuals and societies in general.



## Eka Urushadze

Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia

Executive Director

Dear Reader,

It is our honour to share with you the review of activities performed by Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia during 2017. This document summarizes the activities of the organization in a report, which is annually presented to the public. We are committed to be transparent for the interested parties and inform you on the positive contribution the organization has made to economic, cultural and social development of the country.

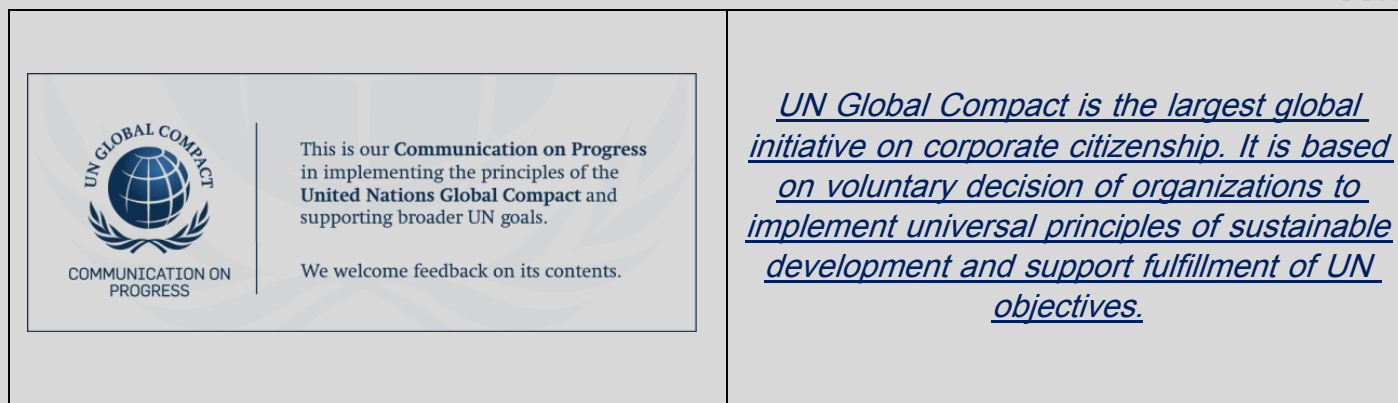
In 2015 UN designed a sustainable development agenda introducing 17 goals to be achieved by 2030. Apart from this, UN Global Compact worked out ten universal principles outlining the following critical issues: human rights protection, labour rights protection, environmental protection and anti-corruption activities. Through this report CSR DG is demonstrating to the interested parties as well as to the wider public its continuous support to the principles of UN Global Compact. Representing the civil sector, we are trying to achieve sustainable development objectives in our daily activities.

Besides, we are confirming our willingness to cooperate with UN Global Compact and within our capacity participate in respective activities and events, get involved in partnership projects focused on corporate responsibility and sustainable development. Should it be necessary or in demand, we will review annual Communications of Progress of other Global Compact participant companies.

Our organization has been part to the UN Global Compact initiative since 2007, and since 2010 we have been supporting Global Reporting Initiative/GRI.

*"Global Reporting Initiative/GRI" is an international network organization with the objective to work out and continuously improve the universal format for sustainable development reporting.*

This integrated report combines annual planned report and Global Compact report on the achieved results (Communication of Engagement). The report clearly demonstrates the ways through which we support enforcement of Global Compact principles by our activity and how we evaluate the achieved results.



In 2017 CSR DG mainly worked in three major directions: civil sector development, open governance support, economic and social changes support. All programs were united under these three directions. Within the framework of these programs, we were able to organized 14 events, collaborated with various sectors through training and working sessions throughout the year.

In 2017 CSR DG was involved in 19 ongoing projects, which are further detailed in this report, but still here I will try to briefly summarize each.

Support of economic and social changes – the main objective is to increase involvement of the business/private sector into sustainable development issues, protect human and labour rights. Namely, ensure self-realization and employment of the equal capacity, vulnerable and less integrated groups.

Development of civil sector – to increase civil awareness on the issue such as: gender equality, service availability, ecology and environment.

Open governance support – to monitor the activities and local budgetary processes of local self-government offices in order to prevent corruption cases and ensure involvement of the citizens in decision making; this, in its turn, creates preconditions for compliance with the fundamental citizenship rights and enforcement of democratic principles.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the employees of our organization, our partners and interested parties; it was their efforts that made it possible to perform the activities reviewed herein and achieve the targeted goals.

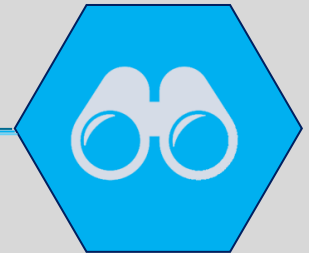


## Mission

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. By promoting democratic values and intersectoral cooperation, Center contributes to the sustainable development of the country.

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

## Vision

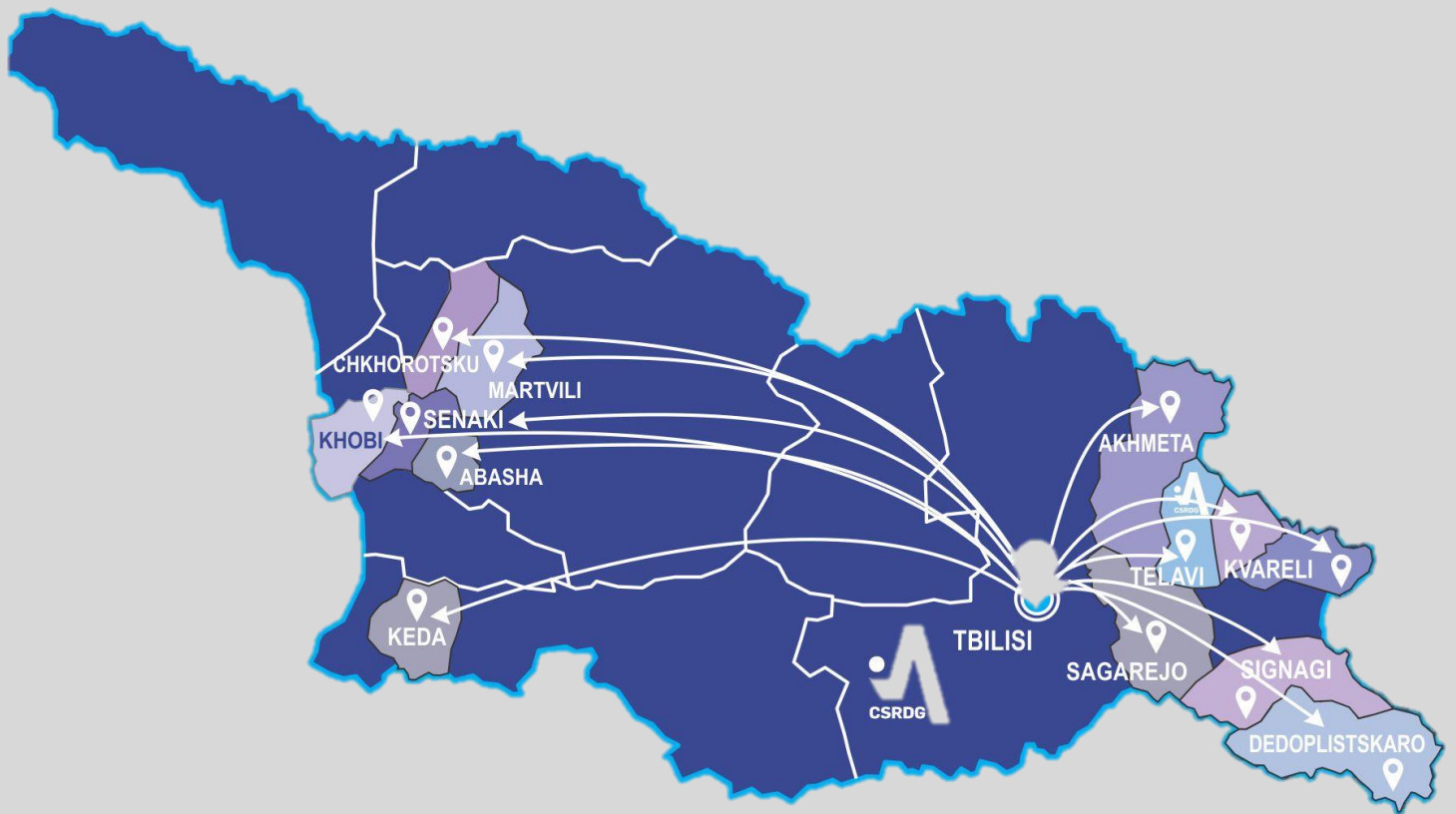


## Values

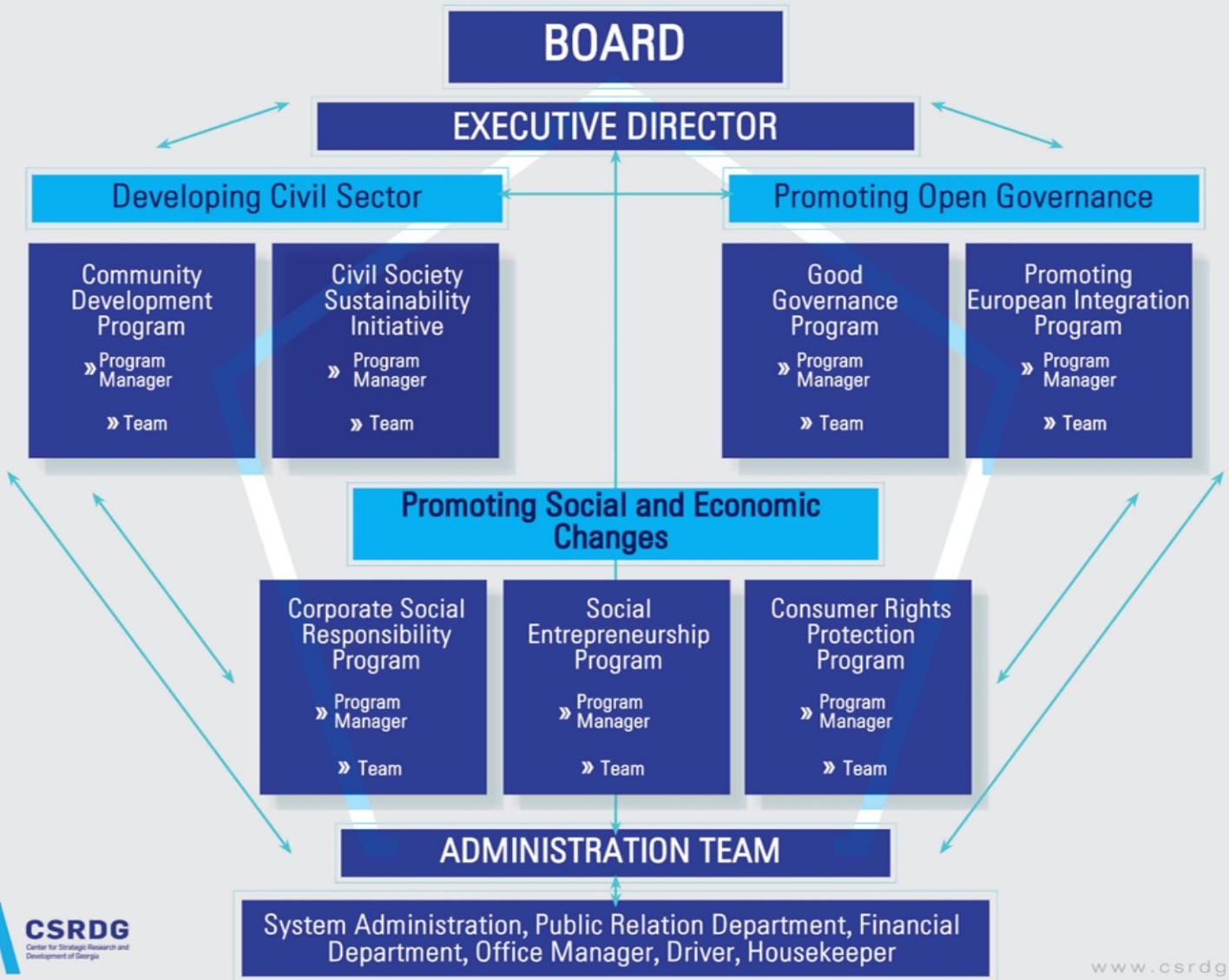


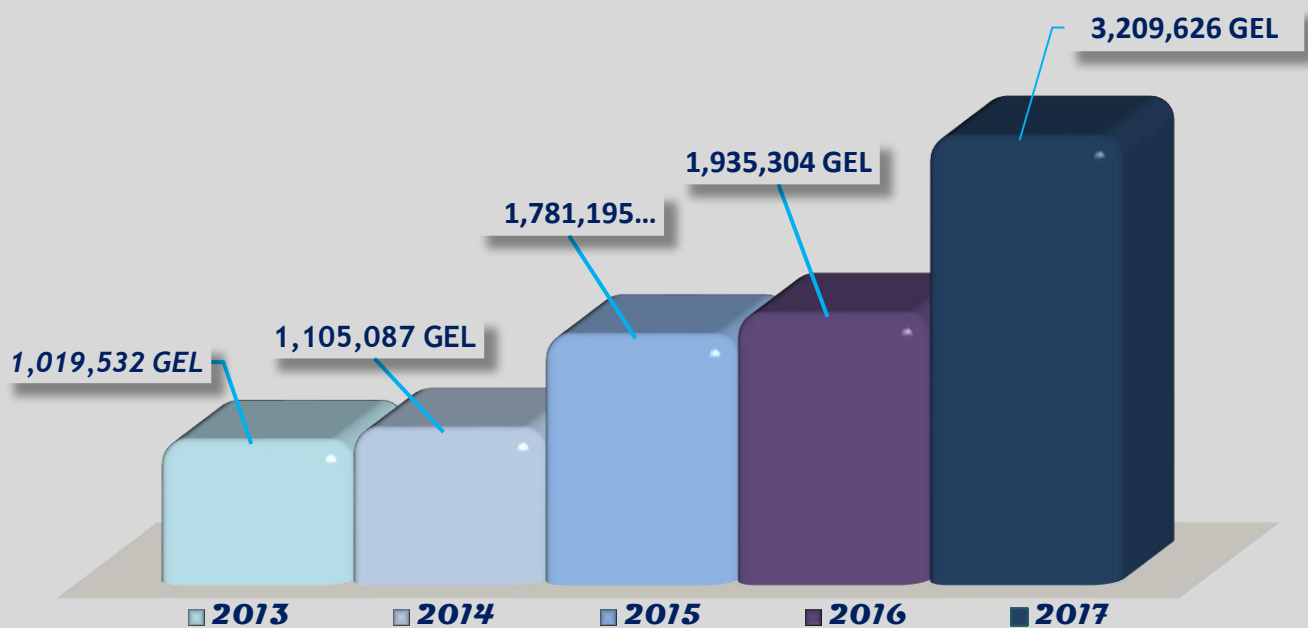
We respect the equality and human dignity; we believe that high civil responsibility, professional competence, mutual cooperation and solidarity are the prerequisites for the development of the country.

The range of our activities extends to the entire country; although, within certain programs, we focus specifically on Dedoplistskaro, Lagodekhi, Akhmeta, Signaghi, Kvareli, Telavi and Sagarejo municipalities in **East Georgia**, and Ozurgeti, Chkhorotsku, Abasha, Martvili, Kedi, Senaki and Khobi municipalities in **West Georgia**.



The organizational and management structure of CSR DG is designed to ensure a clear assignment of functions and responsibilities, and the inclusion of all employees in decision making processes.





Breakdown of income	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Founding from donors	916080	1023277,1	1652249	1,869,035	3,141,491
Individual contributions	813	6121	1053	7,382	17,700
Other Income	6851	6506	16999	7,897	1,358
Income from Service Provision	95 788	69183	110 894	50,990	49,077
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 019 532</b>	<b>1105087</b>	<b>1 781 195</b>	<b>1,935,304</b>	<b>3,209,626</b>



One Day in the Village

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Study of the Municipal Finance Management System

GOOD GOVERNANCE PROGRAM



Georgian Social Entreprises

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM



Youth Festival of Social Entrepreneurship

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM



Product Labeling

CONSUMER RIGHTS PROTECTION PROGRAM



How to Choose Meat?

CONSUMER RIGHTS PROTECTION PROGRAM



- ‡ Community Leaders Forum 2017;
- ‡ Social Entrepreneurship Forum 2017;
- ‡ B2B Exhibition;
- ‡ “Students Supporting Social Entrepreneurship” Competition – Award Ceremony;
- ‡ International Conference on Social Entrepreneurship;
- ‡ Ewa Konczal – Venture Philanthropy and Social Investments;
- ‡ “Developing Self-Governance through the Development of Entrepreneurship in High Mountainous Settlements” – presentation of the research;
- ‡ Award Ceremony of Journalist Competition and Students’ Essay Competition winners;
- ‡ Training on “How to Develop CSR Strategy for Company”;
- ‡ 2017 Pro Bono Marathon;
- ‡ 2017 CSR and Labor Standards Forum;
- ‡ Training – Company as a Responsible Employer;
- ‡ Award Ceremony of Prints Competition “Students for Corporate Social Responsibility”;
- ‡ 2017 Meeting of Pro Bono Network.

1. *“The main program of CSR DG in 2017-2020”*

Donor Organization - Brot für die Welt (BtW)

2. *“Civil Society Development Initiative”*

Donor Organization – The European Union

3. *“Empowering Women for Change”*

Donor Organization - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

4. *Household Waste Reuse and Recycling Practices – Viable Alternatives to Open Waste Burning*

Donor organization - The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

5. *The Global Support Initiative to Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas*

Donor Organization - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The Global Environment Facility (GEF);

6. *Enhancing the Participation of Regional CSOs in Policy Dialogue on Social Inclusion in Georgia*

Donor Organization – The European Union, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic

7. *Rehabilitation of Udabno and Lagodekhi Squares (within the project “Empowering Poor Communities and Micro-Entrepreneurs in Georgian Tourism Sector”)*

Donor Organization - The Biological Farming Association “Elkana”

8. *Enhancing the Participation of Regional CSOs in Policy Dialogue on Social Inclusion in Georgia*

Donor Organization – The European Union and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

9. *Empowering Poor Communities and Micro-Entrepreneurs in Georgian Tourism Sector*

Donor Organization - The Biological Farming Association Elkana and The World Bank

10. *Optimal Utilization of Local Resources and Potential of Keda Municipality*

Donor Organization -The European Neighborhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD)

11. *The Way Back to Society* – The European Union

### *12. Social Entrepreneurship – Innovative Approach to Economic and Social Changes*

Donor Organization: The European Union and Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt / BtW)

### *13. Promoting the Delivery of Pro Bono Services by Means of Online Platform*

Donor Organization: MitOst

### *14. Organization of Stakeholders' Forum – "How to Become a Responsible Employer"*

Donor Organization: Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES)

### *15. Civil Engagement in a Single Frame*

Donor Organization: Die Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung

### *16. Impact of the EU Association Agreement Implementation on Consumers and their Awareness Raising*

Donor Organization: The European Union

### *17. Developing Self-Governance through the Development of Entrepreneurship in High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia*

Donor Organization: Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES)

### *18. Citizens for Open and Effective Local Governance*

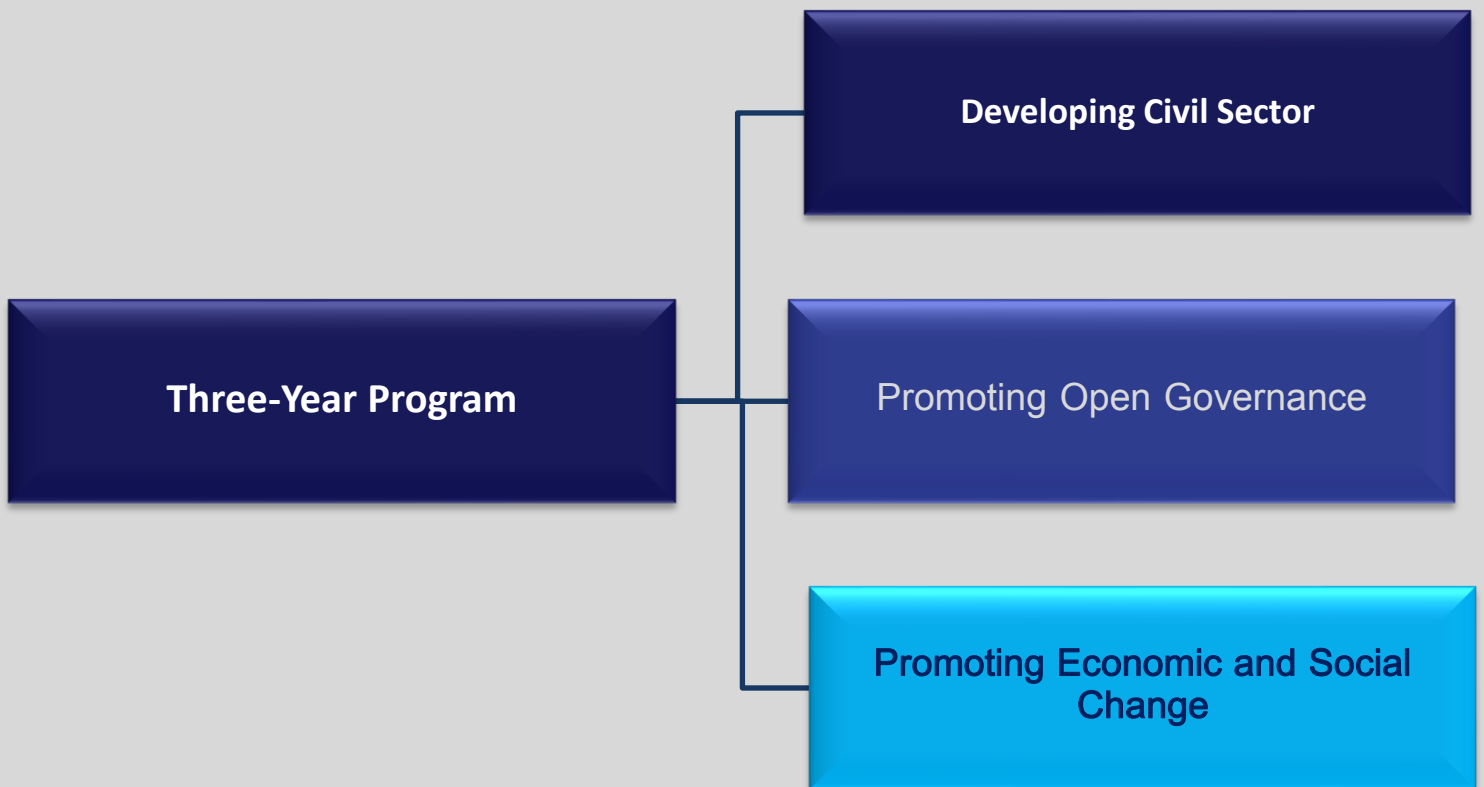
Donor Organization: USAID

### *19. Strengthening the sustainability and engagement of civil society through the development of corporate social responsibility in the Eastern Partnership and Visegrad region*

Donor Organization: Pontis Foundation, International Visegrad Fund

There are three main strategic directions that serve to accomplish the mission of the CSRDG: developing civil sector, promoting open governance and promoting social and economic changes.

All programs of the organization that are part of our daily operations fall within one of these directions.



## Developing Civil Sector

**Developing Civil Sector** – this is one of the first strategic directions in the organization, which aims to ensure that civil society is properly protecting the interests of its own target groups and constantly improving provision of relevant services on both local and central levels. This strategic direction is represented by two main programs – **Community Development** and **Development of Civil Society Organizations (CSO)**.



*Community Development* (village and community levels) program aims to improve institutional, advocacy and fundraising skills in the community so that community members are able to make active and important contribution to the local development.

*CSO Development* program aims to strengthen institutional capabilities of local and central CSOs thus enabling them to provide better services to their respective constituencies.

We work on community development since 1998, and the main scope of our activities therein is related to the creation and capacity building of civil society institutions in regions of Georgia. The most important component of the program aims to support local leaders and initiative groups; we believe that civil society development is the best way to realize local potential and solve local problems. Better access to local resources would help local population to effectively advocate for their own interests, as well as actively cooperate with local government and other actors of the civil society sector. The main emphasis of the program is made on women and youth empowerment and capacity building.

In frames of the 2017 program, organization was intensively working with 32 communities of 12 target municipalities in Kakheti, Guria and Samegrelo regions. We base our activities on networking and coalition principles, therefore our work with communities is actively supported by our regional partners – Georgian Civil Development Association (Lagodekhi, Kakheti), Atinati (Zugdidi, Samegrelo) and Association of Mediators of Guria (Ozurgeti, Guria).

Since 2011 CSRDG has launched the Community Development Resource Center (CDRC), which provides diverse information and technical assistance to community groups and organizations thus contributing to the better connections and networking between CBOs. CDRC is working throughout Georgia; CDRC comprehensive CBO database comes handy for speedy and efficient dissemination of the information while announcing grant competitions and planning various joint activities. The detailed information on CBOs working in Georgia is available on [www.cdrc.ge](http://www.cdrc.ge) web portal.

### Projects Implemented in Frames of the 2017 Program

In 2017, altogether five large-scale projects aiming to develop / strengthen various community components were going on within the Community Development Program.

1. The main program of CSRDG in 2017-2020 – Bread for the World / Brot für die Welt (BtW);
2. “Empowering Women for Change” – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
3. Household Waste Reuse and Recycling Practices – Viable Alternatives to Open Waste Burning – The Global Environment Facility (GEF);
4. The Global Support Initiative to Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The Global Environment Facility (GEF);
5. Rehabilitation of Udabno and Lagodekhi Squares (within the project “Empowering Poor Communities and Micro-Entrepreneurs in Georgian Tourism Sector”) – The Biological Farming Association “Elkana”;
6. Civil Society Development Initiative – The European Union.

## Supporting Community Organizations and Groups

We regularly organize various trainings, meetings and experience sharing / study tours that aim to strengthen and develop CBOs and community groups. At the same time, we think it is important to assist them in planning and implementation of community projects and initiatives; with this purpose two or three times per year we announce grant competitions on various topics related to education, environment and infrastructure development.

In 2017, four grant competitions were announced, with maximum allowed budget of 1000–8000 Gel per project. Altogether 18 community projects were funded with total value of GEL 2 39971

In 2017, three **study tours** and working meetings were organized. Experience sharing study tours serve to exchange the information and coordinate activities between target communities both intra- and inter-regionally. 2 tours were organized to establish cooperation between newly created and advanced community groups in Samegrelo and Kakheti regions respectively, while the third tour supported at inter-regional exchange and cooperation.

**Experience sharing tour in Kakheti region** was organized in July. During two days of the tour, representatives of 11 newly created community groups have visited 6 advanced CBOs in order to get acquainted with their ongoing projects, learn about related problems and challenges, and get practical information and recommendations.

**Experience Sharing Tour in Samegrelo region** was organized in September. 14 representatives of 11 newly established community centers have visited 5 existing CBOs with the same purpose of exchanging the information about ongoing projects and activities.

**Internal Tours** – during the internal regional tour 30 representatives of CBOs and community groups from Chkhorotsku, Dedoplistskaro and Akhmeta municipalities have visited 7 advanced CSOs to learn about their ongoing projects, general working experience and major challenges they face during their activities.



## Joint Activities and Meetings in 2017

Community Leaders' Forum 2017 was conducted on November 16-17 in Hotel "Ambasadori Kachreti". More than 70 participants, among them 35 representatives of community organizations and initiative groups took part in the Forum, which has been held for six years, each time improving and acquiring an increasingly large-scale nature. Since 2016, the Forum program includes a nomination for the best community initiative of the year, and the corresponding award ceremony.

During the first day, Forum participants have reviewed the results of the project "Empowering Women for Change" and rural development strategy; they also discussed the positive experience and opportunities that are available in the country for community leaders and their activities. The event speakers were invited both from state institutions, as well as from civil and international organizations operating in Georgia.

On the second day of the event, participating CBOs got an opportunity to work on joint community initiatives. To this end, CBOs united in sub-groups according to their priority issue and worked on the relevant project concepts that were presented to jury members at the end of the day.

Project concepts were selected according to the criteria of their relevance to the community, creativity / innovation, as well as effective and realistic ways of implementation. The winner of the contest was the team "This is My Homeland", which united 5 communities from 3 municipalities. The purpose of their joint initiative was to disseminate information and raise awareness about protected areas in respective municipalities. The winner initiative group has been awarded GEL 3000 for implementation of this initiative.



**At the initiative of community groups, and in cooperation with local government, total 88 problems of different scale and complexity were solved in 2017**

### Eco Clubs

Within the framework of the program, we paid special attention to the formation and strengthening of youth community groups, providing them with technical, informational and financial support. In recent years, an environmental component has been added to the program, which implies the creation and development of eco-clubs in target communities and promotion of environmental issues.

The trainings conducted for eco-clubs in 2017 were aimed at developing the skills and capacity of their members in the topics of waste management, environmental social entrepreneurship and proposal writing.

### Mine, Your, Our Community – Students Competition

The Students Competition “Mine, Your, Our Community” was first conducted in 2017. The competition aimed to bring young urban inhabitants closer to the villages, increase their sense of responsibility and solidarity with communities and involve them in local problem solving processes. Competition will be held annually.

60 students of three Tbilisi universities took part in the competition: Tbilisi State University (TSU) – Social and Political Sciences department students; Ilia State University (Ilia Uni) – Public Relations department students and Georgian Institute for Public Administration (GIPA) – Business Administration department students. For those of them who passed to the second stage of the competition, trainings in “Proposal Writing”, “Communication Campaigns” and “Local Government Competencies” were conducted. There were two winner teams in 2017; each team has been awarded GEL 900 for implementation of their projects, which is planned for 2018.

In frames of the CSO Development program, we work to support capacity building of the Georgian civil sector, promote its visibility and build the trust of the society towards CSO activities. This direction is among our priorities since 1998. To achieve our goals, we offer the custom-tailored technical assistance to CSOs so that they can improve their management system, deliver quality services to their beneficiaries and, most importantly, ensure their own financial and institutional sustainability. In 2017, CSR DG cooperated in drafting the Law on Social Work and took an active part in the overall improvement of the legislative framework governing the social sphere.

### Projects within the 2017 Program

Involvement in various projects enables us to work in many directions promoting social development and general well-being in the country; we regularly extend our work to new target regions to introduce them to the current trends and modern standards.

1. The main program of CSR DG in 2017-2020 – Bread for the World / Brot für die Welt(BtW);
2. Enhancing the Participation of Regional CSOs in Policy Dialogue on Social Inclusion in Georgia – The European Union and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic; implementing organizations - CSR DG and People in Need.
3. Strengthen Capacity of CSOs in Georgia and Ukraine to Contribute to the Policy Dialogue on Social Service Delivery; donor – the European Union; implementing organizations – CSR DG, Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB) and Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research;
4. Optimal Utilization of Local Resources and Potential of Keda Municipality; donor – the European Union; implementing organizations – CSR DG, Democracy Institute, Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning;
5. Critical Thinking in Digital World - Die Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung;
6. Civil Engagement in a Single Frame – Die Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung.

Projects under the program in 2017 were focused on local CSO development and capacity building. Together with Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB-Georgia) and Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR), CSR DG is involved as partner organization in implementation of the project “Strengthen Capacity of CSOs in Georgia and Ukraine to Contribute to the Policy Dialogue on Social Service Delivery”. In frames of the project, Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia has conducted trainings and consultations in organizational development for 66 representatives of 2 coalitions (12 organizations altogether) and 6 independent organizations.

The Center has organized also 5 working meetings and consultations, during which participant organizations and coalitions planned social services advocacy campaigns aiming to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged groups. Altogether 63 representatives of 27 organization took part in working meetings. The three-year project, which is funded by the European Union, has been launched in March 2015; it aims to strengthen social services provider CSOs in Georgia and Ukraine and involve them in social policy dialogue.

In February 2017, the training on the “Participatory Monitoring of the Municipal Budget” was conducted. Training was attended by the representatives from target organizations in 4 municipalities: Foundation “Sokhumi” – Khoni, “Foundation for Tkibuli Development” – Tkibuli; “Charity Humanitarian Foundation Abkhazeti” – Gori and “Tanaziari” – Zugdidi. As a follow up to the training, CSR DG consultants assisted beneficiary organizations to develop monitoring plans to monitor the social budgets in each target municipality.

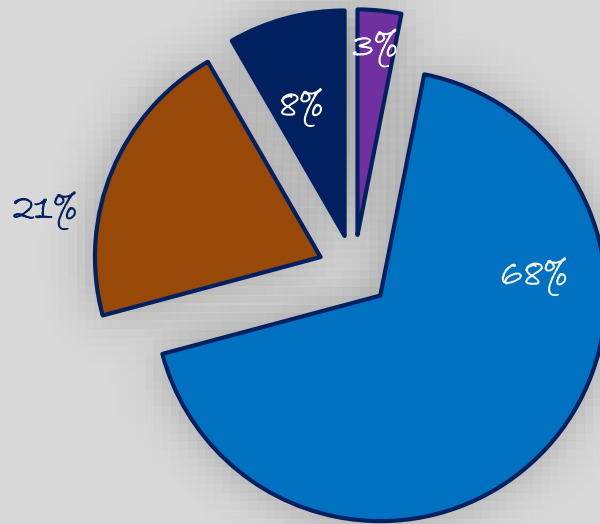
During 9 months, organizations were actively monitoring not only the social budget expenditures but also the process of the 2018 budget planning; while doing this, they were constantly receiving the consultations and recommendations from CSR DG consultants.

These activities were conducted in frames of the project “Enhancing the Participation of Regional CSOs in Policy Dialogue on Social Inclusion in Georgia” funded by the European Union and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and implemented by CSR DG and People in Need.

One more youth-oriented activity implemented in 2017 was the innovative training program developed in frames of the project “Critical Thinking in Digital World”, which focused on the creative / critical thinking issues. The training program was based on both informal education and digital methodologies. As soon as the training curriculum was fully developed, CSR DG trainers have conducted the “Think Critically – Act Practically” training for young people in the age of 14 to 20 years. Project was funded by the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung-BPB.

In the course of the program in 2017, based on requests from international and local organizations (Open Society – Georgia Foundation; SOS – Children’s Village; Youth Thinking; UNA – Georgia), several organizational development training courses and recommendation packages were designed and implemented.

The overall result of training courses and recommendation packages in 2017 looks like follows:



■ Trainings
 ■ Consultations
 ■ Working Meetings
 ■ Recommendation Packages on Organizational Development

“Civil Engagement in a Single Frame” – this is the name of the project, in frames of which organizations from five post-soviet countries - Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belarus, Armenia and Russia produced the 20-minute video presenting opinions of ordinary citizens of abovementioned countries on civic activism and active citizenship. Project was implemented with grant from Die Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung.

Promoting Open Governance direction aims to support the cooperation between the government and civil sector in order to establish the open, needs-based governance in the country. Two programs of our organization are united under this direction – the **Good Governance Program** and **Promoting the European Integration Program**.



*Good Governance Program* – introducing transparency, accountability and sustainable development principles into the governance process.

*Promoting the European Integration Program* – increasing the capacity of CSOs in better identification, monitoring and advocacy of social, economic and cultural rights of the population.

Ever since the foundation of our organization, one of its main goals was the development of democracy and civic culture by supporting local leaders and groups of activists. Since 1998, we've been actively working on decentralization issues. Years of work and many implemented projects / initiatives made a significant contribution to the local self-government development; accordingly, the good governance program emerged as one of the leading directions of our organization.

Practical studies and diagnostic reports by our experts cover the issues such as fiscal independence of self-governing units, the formation and management of municipal property, democratic governance systems, decentralization, citizen participation in decision-making, etc. Through the research and recommendations developed within the program, we assist central and local institutions in problem-solving process.

Apart from this, we actively participate in initiatives and projects that are related with on-going reforms both at local and international levels.

### Main Activities of the Program in 2017

In 2017, the project monitored transparency and accountability of public administration, in particular, transparency, inclusiveness and effectiveness of the municipal budget and programs. The data obtained as a result of monitoring were analyzed and recommendations for improving governance were developed; recommendations were then considered and adopted at the municipal, regional and central levels. We try to support local self-government by providing technical assistance to it, but also by building citizens' capacity and promoting their participation in decision-making process.

18 recommendations drawn up as a result of various studies and projects were taken into consideration by local governments. During the year, 11 public hearings were organized on the results of the study and the recommendations developed. The issues initiated by the Center were considered at 45 Sakrebulo meetings. Representatives of the program were actively involved in the process of reviewing constitutional changes, as well as in the process of local government reform and abolition of the status of 7 self-governing cities.

## Projects in Frames of 2017 Program

Our ongoing projects in 2017 included the areas, such as transparency and accountability, local and central budget monitoring, decentralization, legislation and research activities.

1. The main program of CSRDG in 2017-2020 – Bread for the World / Brot für die Welt (BtW);
2. Developing Self-Governance through the Development of Entrepreneurship in High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia – Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES);
3. Citizens for Open and Effective Local Governance – USAID.



### Research Activities of the Program

**Development of high-mountainous regions** - within the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung –funded project “Developing Self-Governance through the Development of Entrepreneurship in High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia”, CSR DG studied mechanisms that have been launched in 2016 to support entrepreneurial initiatives and activities in high-mountainous settlements. In particular, the Center has studied the legislative environment, the decisions of the government, as well as the existing situation in the target settlements (Mestia municipality – Mestia, Lenjeri, Lakhamula; Telavi municipality – Tetri Tsklebi; Chokhatauri municipality – Zoti, Chkhakaura). Interim results of the study were discussed at a round table with representatives of the target municipalities in Mestia and Telavi, while the final results and recommendations were published in the Center’s bulletin.

The presentation of the study “Developing Self-Governance through the Development of Entrepreneurship in High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia” was organized in conference hall of Café “Lolita” on December 18, 2017.

**Working Meeting** - Final presentation of the study was preceded by the interim results’ presentation. The working meeting was organized by the program on July 25 in regional center Mestia. Meeting was conducted in the round table format and representatives of Mestia, Telavi and Chokhatauri municipalities were invited for participation.

Our researcher and Head of the program – Levan Alapishvili presented the results of the study exploring the opportunities and challenges of developing entrepreneurship in high-mountainous settlements. As the law on "On The Development of High-Mountainous Regions" and respective tax code benefits had been entered into force in 2016, our project aimed to study the impact of these innovations on local government strengthening.

There are total 3633 villages and 71 municipalities in Georgia. According to the above mentioned Law, 1681 settlements (villages, small towns) in 41 municipalities have been granted the status of high-mountainous settlement. Enterprises with the status of the high-mountainous enterprise will be exempted from profit tax (at 15%) and property tax (at 1%) for 10 years, while individual entrepreneurs - from income tax (at 20%).



Results of the study were published in the bulletin of the CSRDG; also, the short guidebook was produced, which lists the main problems related to the administration of profit tax by enterprises holding status of a high-mountain enterprise, as well as the possible solutions of these problems as advised by the competent authorities. The publication also offers guidance on the procedures for obtaining the status of a high-mountainous enterprise.

**Study of the Local Budget Management Systems** - in 2017, as part of the USAID-funded project on “Citizens for Open and Effective Local Governance”, the study of the “Municipal Funds Management System” was conducted.

The aim of the study was to examine the efficiency, transparency and inclusiveness of municipal funds management system and to contribute to its improvement through the development of relevant recommendations and advocacy activities. The study was conducted at central, regional and municipal levels of local government. At central and regional levels, we explored respective competences, regulations and practice; in addition to this, at municipal level we analyzed the funding of the self-government, the degree of its independence in the process of distribution and management of municipal funds, the extent to which the public interests are taken into account, and involvement of citizens in the management of public finances.

The results of the “Municipal Funds Management System” study as well as developed recommendations were presented to the stakeholders by the CSRDG expert Levan Alapishvili on April 20th, in “Radisson Blu Iveria” hotel. Please, see the additional information on the study [here](#).

**Monitoring of the Budget System and Elections** – in 2016-2017, CSRDG has implemented the project “Elections and Management of Public Finances” supported by the Open Society – Georgia Foundation. Project aimed to study the public funds management system and provision of pre-election constraints in the legal entities of public law that are not financed from state, autonomous or municipal budgets.

The direct or indirect over-expenditures of public finances during the elections has become the usual malpractice in recent years. To create a fair environment in the pre-election period, it is important to ensure appropriate use not only of budgetary funds, but also of those non-budgetary resources that represent public goods: property, law, privileges, services, value, etc.

In the pre-election period, the financial management system of Georgian legal entities of public law was conducted using the examples of the National Agency of Public Registry (NAPR), Municipal Development Fund, the National Environmental Agency and Service Agency of Ministry of Finance.

The systemic problems and other findings revealed by the study, together with appropriate recommendations were submitted to the Parliament of Georgia and the Government, as well as to relevant LEPLs and Ministries. Results of the study were presented by CSRDG on April 28 at the conference hall of Café Lolita.

## Promoting European Integration

We started the European Integration promotion program back in 2015. In the beginning, we were focused on several directions of the EU Association Agreement and DCFTA (Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area), such as: ensuring healthy competition, food safety, protection of intellectual property, consumer rights protection; however, in 2017 the program has expanded to cover practically all areas within these agreements, a especially social, economic and cultural rights protection.

Program has two main components: increasing CSO capacity to monitor the implementation of the EU Association agreement, and advocating for reforms envisaged by the agreement that ultimately aim to increase the role of civil sector in political dialogue. Our objectives include creating and improving the online monitoring instruments, as well as designing and implementing training programs, seminars and distance learning courses.

### Projects that are going on in frames of the program in 2017

1. The main program of CSRDG in 2017-2020 – Bread for the World / Brot für die Welt(BtW);
2. “Civil Society Development Initiative” – The European Union.

### Joint Trainings and Events in 2017

In frames of the program in 2017, the cycle of trainings on EU Association Agreement was organized. The trainings aimed to assist CSO representatives in monitoring implementation of commitments undertaken under the agreement. (August 1-4, Telavi – 20 CSO representatives took part in the training, July 18-21, Batumi – 23, July 4-7, Kutaisi – 21, June 20-13, Tbilisi - 18 CSO representatives took part in the training.

Altogether 82 representatives of CSOs attended all 4 stages of the training cycle. 3-day trainings consisted of 12 sessions each and covered 30 topics related to EU Association Agreement. Training curricula included both theory and practical examples and exercise.

**The following specific topics were included in training curriculum:**

The history of Georgia–EU relations; CSO role in EU integration process; the theme of the conflict in Georgia's European integration process; strengthening and protecting common European values; foreign and security policy; controlling public finances and more.

## Webportal asociereba.ge

Webportal asociereba.ge, which provides the detailed information on the “ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part “, was developed to fill in the information gaps and build public awareness on EU Association Agreement, to share the accumulated experience and also to serve as monitoring instrument of EU Association Agreement implementation.

Webportal provides access to educational resources and CSO findings / insights on EU Association Agreement. We think that this activity will significantly support the European integration of Georgia. In 2018 the webportal will be renewed with much more efficient and simplified navigation system, updated links and replenished information resources.

## Grant Competition Announced by Program in 2017

In August 2017, the program has announced Small Grants Competition for CSOs that aimed to promote the monitoring of the EU Association Agreement implementation and advocate for issues envisaged by the Agreement. Competition was open both for individual CSOs and consortia of CSOs registered and operating in Georgia. There were 19 project proposals submitted to the competition, and out of these 5 projects have been funded.

## Promoting Economic and Social Change

**Promoting Economic and Social Change** – strategic aim of this direction is to increase the social responsibility of civil sector, business and citizens of Georgia. The organization has three programs running under this direction; these are Consumer Rights Protection, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Development and Social Entrepreneurship Programs.



**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.

**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.

**Consumer Rights Protection** – works efficiently only when appropriate state policy mechanisms are in place. Business is more responsible towards consumers, while citizens as consumers are more actively protecting their own rights.

## Consumer Rights

We started to work on Consumer Rights protection back in 2009 and in several years have become one of the leading CSOs in the field. The main goal of our activities in this direction is to ensure that consumer rights in our country are protected by the state structures both at legislative and institutional levels.

### Raising Awareness on Consumer Rights

Initially we started to monitor market by checking the food products only; nowadays, to the extent possible, we try to monitor other consumer goods too. In 2011, CSR DG has launched the interactive webportal [www.momxmarebeli.ge](http://www.momxmarebeli.ge) and Facebook page with the same name, where interested individuals can learn more about consumer rights, read about facts of their violations and post their own relevant experience.

Based on request from consumers, or by our own initiative we obtain the suspicious product samples from supermarkets and examine them in labs. In case of the violations detected we publish corresponding information on the webportal and Facebook page, contact the National Food Agency (NFA) and the actual producers of the food.

### Projects were going on in frames of the program in 2017

1. The main program of CSR DG in 2017-2020 – Bread for the World / Brot für die Welt (BtW);
2. Impact of the EU Association Agreement Implementation on Consumers and their Awareness Raising – The European Union.

### Activities Implemented in Frames of the Program in 2017

188 users applied to Program with complaints or questions related to food safety. 50 food samples have been inspected as a result of consumers' complaints (or risks revealed by other sources of the Program). Detected violations have been publicly disclosed and communicated to the National Food Agency (NFA).

The Program also continued to implement toy checking initiative launched in 2016, during which 16 harmful toys were discovered. In 2017 Program detected six more harmful toys and launched the advocacy campaign to introduce the state control over the toy safety; campaign was actively joined by the Public Defender's Office.

## Consumer Rights

It turned out that due to the insufficient legislation, the government can't withdraw harmful toys from market even when their harm is clearly identified. Despite the fact that this deficiency is still not solved and Georgian government plans to introduce toy safety regulations only in 2019, campaign significantly increased the level of citizens' awareness in this area and contributed to creation of preconditions for future state control.

Program implemented monitoring and advocacy campaigns on the topics of: lead content in food products, identification of food contamination sources, transparency of the NFA and the way it informs the population about harmful food products.

Program experts were involved in review of 4 draft regulations and provided their recommendations to state structures.

5 educational articles were prepared for the website; 1000 copies of educational brochures on "How to Choose Meat?" and "Food Labeling" were published and distributed free of charge throughout Georgia.

Program organized 2 information meetings in Telavi and Ozurgeti to discuss the legal requirements on food labeling. Total 56 people including representatives of NFA, local self-government, local entrepreneurs, media and CSOs participated in meetings.

Four small-scale projects funded in frames of the 2016 Small Grants Competition were completed; projects aimed to organize information campaigns on various consumer rights protection issues (please, see the attached information on grants).

Also, Center organized the journalist's works (total 41 entries) and students' essays (73 entries) competitions on consumer rights protection issues. One TV spot, one radio spot, one internet publication and 7 essays were named as winners and received special awards.

As a result of the food market monitoring implemented by the program, 14 expired or defective products were identified and made public by the Program. Following the Center's notification, NFA (National Food Agency) inspected relevant food producers and found violations in 9 cases, which resulted in withdrawal of contaminated products from the market, fines imposed on violators and suspension of producing when appropriate. As a result of the repeated inspections carried out by the program, 6 cases of violations did not prove out any more.

As a result of the civil advocacy campaign organized with active participation of a Program, the National Food Agency significantly intensified inspection of spices for the presence of lead. Also, Customs Department has begun to examine the imported spices, which was not the case before. The level of NFA transparency increased. In response to program appeals, NFA started to fully disclose the results of its inspections. Program has revealed two systemic deficiencies in state control of the food safety, which were not known to the society before:

Detection of food contamination sources is a great challenge, which only occurs as exception, and NFA does not provide timely warnings about harmful food products revealed. Therefore, program continues to monitor and advocate to eliminate these deficiencies.

In 2004 we were the first among local organizations to start talking about importance of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Since then we actively work with government structures, big companies / SME, media and universities to raise awareness and promote the availability of the expertise on the topic.

In order to promote and popularize the CSR concept in Georgia, we launched the blog [www.csrblog.ge](http://www.csrblog.ge), where you can find news, information, interviews, expert articles and variety of other resources on CSR

With purpose of CSR promotion, we organized and implemented number of communication campaigns, trainings, seminars, master classes and stakeholder forums.

**CSR is the goodwill of the business to avoid a negative impact of its activities on people and environment, and contribute to the general well-being of the society.**

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) – in other words, the responsible behavior of business towards society, means that companies realize and take the responsibility because of the social and environmental impact of their activities. CSR is the voluntary decision of the business organization to take more responsibility, to comply with standards that are above statutory obligations, to act ethically, to consider expectations of society, and to make positive impact on its working, social and natural environment.

In 2017, by CSR program initiative we launched the electronic information bulletin as a channel to communicate the CSR-related activities and news to our stakeholders.

### Projects implemented in frames of the program in 2017

1. The main program of CSRDG in 2017-2020 – Bread for the World / Brot für die Welt(BtW);
2. “Civil Society Development Initiative” – The European Union;
3. Promoting the Delivery of Pro Bono Services by Means of Online Platform – MitOst;
4. Organization of Stakeholders’ Forum – “How to Become a Responsible Employer” Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES).

**The Forum on “CSR and Labor Standards”** was organized on November 30, 2017 in hotel Courtyard Marriott. Event was supported by the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES) and Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Affairs of Georgia. Opening ceremony of the Forum was attended by representatives from Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, and by Ambassadors of Slovakia and Austria to Georgia.

The aim of the Forum was to highlight the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility in implementing labor standards and fulfilling the requirements of international agreements. The event was attended by more than 150 representatives of government, business and civil society. Forum speakers covered important issues, such as compliance with labor standards in Georgia, improving the working environment and meeting international requirements. During the forum, invited experts Martin Neureiter and Lukas Bakos talked about international experience in the field of CSR and responsibility towards employees, while representatives of APM Terminals Poti and Microfinance Company JSC MFO Crystal shared similar experience of companies operating in Georgia.

**Master class on CSR and Labor Standards** - on November 30, 20 representatives of medium and large business of Georgia took part in the master class on "The Company as a Responsible Employer" organized within the framework of the CSR and Labour Standards Forum. Master class was conducted by Martin Neureiter and Lukas Bakos. Participants had the opportunity to review and analyze the main issues of a responsible working environment, such as diversity and equal opportunities, health and safety, welfare and social protection of employees, work-life balance, education and professional growth, relations between management and employees, etc.

**Student Prints Contest "Students for Corporate Social Responsibility"** was first organized at the initiative of the program in 2017 and aimed to raise awareness about CSR and promote a correct understanding of its concept by the society. Students from 8 universities and vocational schools took part in the contest with total 17 entries developed and submitted by 14 contestants.

On July 10, 2017, in cooperation with TBC Bank and the International Festival of Prints “Life N Style 2017”, CSR DG organized award ceremony of the winners of the contest in the New Mziuri Park. As a result of the competition, authors of two winning entries were identified: Luka Ivanidze, chosen by the jury, and Anna Kashia and David Nachkebia, chosen by Facebook's audience. In addition, Luka Ivanidze become a favorite of the International Festival of Prints.



**Public lectures for students** – In 2017, the head of the CSR program Lela Khoperia conducted two public lectures on "Corporate social responsibility - a new reality of business" for postgraduate students of Ilia State University and Georgian Institute of Public Affairs.

**Training on "How to Develop CSR Strategy in the Company" was organized on June 30, 2017.** Training was delivered by Jaques Spelkens (Belgium), an invited professor at several universities in Belgium, an international CSR trainer, advisor of president of the large multinational company "ENGIE Group" and the head of the CSR Department. The training was facilitated by Lela Khoperia, CSR Program Manager. Training on the above topic was held in Georgia for the first time, and it was attended by 20 representatives of big business companies. The event was supported by the Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration.

### Feedback

The best training on CSR and the best training that I've attended this year  
(Adjaristskali Georgia LLC)

Pro Bono

**Pro Bono services** – is one of the available formats for the company to implement its Corporate Social Responsibility; more specifically, it is one of the formats for employee volunteering (corporate volunteering).

Pro bono services help to make private sector's expertise and intellectual resources accessible for the organizations working for the benefit of the society. In this way, companies are helping social groups whose interests are represented by civil society organizations.

Georgian Pro Bono Network, activities of which are coordinated by our team, aims to connect responsible business companies with beneficiary civil society organizations and therefore facilitate provision of pro bono services. During 2 years pro bono consultations were provided to ca.30 beneficiary organizations. In 2017, 13 members of Pro Bono Network were joined by 4 more companies and today the Network unites 17 business companies, including APM Terminals Poti, Georgian Progress Group, Pasha Bank, Consultation Company "Profit Lab".

## Here are few successful examples of Pro Bono cooperation implemented in 2017 in frames of Pro Bono Mediation Program:

1. Member of Association of Law Firms of Georgia, Kordzadze Law Office provided legal services to Social Enterprise “Ikorta”;
2. TBSC Consulting assisted Social Enterprise “Kodala” with recommendations and research on export opportunities;
3. ACT helped Social Enterprise “Babale” to prepare the catalog of their own products and to write the corporate offer;
4. Construction Company “Axis” developed the architectural project for the outdoor Social Café in Sachkhere.

In 2017, CSR DG hosted second “Global Pro Bono Week” in Georgia, which is celebrated annually, in the last week of October, in more than 20 countries around the world. The Global Pro Bono Week is usually loaded with many various activities and events; it was this week that the annual Pro Bono Network meeting and Pro Bono Marathon took place.

**Pro Bono Marathon 2017** – on October 27, CSR DG and Bank of Georgia (BoG) jointly organized the Pro Bono Marathon. In frames of the Marathon, 13 BoG employees volunteered for 9 hours, providing free of charge – pro bono – consultations to representatives of 7 civil society organizations (CSOs). Altogether, in frames of the Marathon, up to 40 problems of these organizations were solved. Consultations covered the topics such as: legal issues, human capital management, social media and website management, event planning, development of communication strategy, preparing texts for flyers, creating new logo.

Summary Meeting of Pro Bono Network also took place in frames of the Global Pro Bono Week, on November 1. The goal of the meeting was to summarize the results of the last year’s activities and pro bono cooperation. Representatives of those companies that were actively involved in pro bono service delivery in 2017 made their presentations and shared experience.

Since 2009, promotion and development of social entrepreneurship in country has become one of the significant directions within the diverse activities of our team. In 2010, our organization established the "**Center for Social Entrepreneurship**", which aims to develop capacities of Georgian CSO so that they can more effectively fulfill their social and environmental tasks.

**We are the only organization in Georgia, which in 2017 became an associated member of European Venture Philanthropy Association**

We offer expert support and institutional strengthening services that are custom-tailored to the genuine needs of any interested client. We announce grant competitions to support start-up social enterprises; for our grant recipients we provide permanent consultations in organizational, financial, marketing and legal issues. Important component of the program works to strengthen cooperation between social entrepreneurship and other sectors, and develop mechanisms for effective share of experience.

**Social Enterprise is an enterprise operating under business principles but with social mission. It is an organization that uses business approaches to address social problems.**

In order to share the experience accumulated during many years, we created informational and analytical webportal [www.segeorgia.org](http://www.segeorgia.org), where any interested person or organization will find needed information on theory and practice of social entrepreneurship.

## Projects that are going on in frames of 2017 Program

1. The main program of CSR DG in 2017-2020 – Bread for the World / Brot für die Welt (BtW);
2. The Way Back to Society – The European Union;
3. Social Entrepreneurship – Innovative Approach to Economic and Social Changes – The European Union and Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt / BtW)

Project that was launched in 2017 gave us an opportunity to work with vulnerable groups such as individuals in conflict with law.

## Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship Concept

We launched Idea Competition back in 2016, in frames of the EU-funded project. The aim of the competition is to establish in Georgia successful social enterprises with different social missions, and in this way promote social entrepreneurship development. Authors of innovative business idea with social mission have a chance to enroll in 2-phase grant competition and turn their idea into reality.

During the first phase, participants who wish to establish a social enterprise take part in the Idea Competition; then, contestants selected through the Idea Competition are invited to the intensive training course designed by the "Social Entrepreneurship Development Laboratory", which helps participants to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to develop business plan, obtain grant funding, establish and manage the social enterprise.

There were 4 Idea Competitions announced in 2017. Total 303 applications were submitted to the competition; out of these 37 were shortlisted to compete in the second phase and finally 11 business plans received the grant funding. Total amount of funding requested to establish a social enterprise could vary from EUR 2,000 to EUR 8,000 (awarded in GEL equivalent).

Additional information about Social Enterprises funded in 2017 is provided in the attachment.



In order to promote development of the social entrepreneurship and create sustainable institutions in country, together with 6 social enterprises we established in 2016 the “Social Enterprises Alliance” – unified platform for social enterprises, which advocates for common interests of its members, promotes visibility of the sector in the society, and supports development of effective mechanisms for exchange and cooperation among sectors.

With aim to strengthen the Alliance and support successful implementation of its activities, CSR DG co-financed the Youth Festival initiated by the Alliance in 2017. In frames of the “Youth Festival of Social Entrepreneurship 2017”, an exhibition-sale of products of social entrepreneurs was organized in five cities of Georgia. 25 students and 18 social enterprises were involved in organization of the Festival, the motto of which was #sheagrovesikharuli (#collectjoy). Project was realized by “Social Enterprises Alliance” with financial support from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia, Children and Youth Foundation and CSR DG.

### **The Center for Social Entrepreneurship**

In frames of the program, in order to strengthen social enterprises, we work both with newly established and already active SEs by offering them custom-tailored training and consultation services. Services are provided by the Center for Social Entrepreneurship, which was established on the basis of CSR DG.

**Trainings** - Social Entrepreneurship Center developed the training package for social entrepreneurs operating in Georgia. Training package includes four training programs with different content, these are: “Training in Social Entrepreneurship – Business Plan”; “Training in Social Entrepreneurship – Evaluation”; “Training in Social Entrepreneurship – Civil Society Organization – Social Enterprise” and “Training in Social Entrepreneurship – Introduction”.

**Consultations** – The Center for Social Entrepreneurship offers an integrated package of consultations for beginner social enterprises; consultations are provided both in process of business planning and during its implementation.

In 2017, more than 100 participants attended the training cycle conducted for applicants shortlisted for the second phase of the Idea Competition. Each selected applicant could get the consultations during the whole cycle of the business plan development.

For active social enterprises, the training on "Tax Legislation and Profit Tax Reform" was conducted in cooperation with the Academy of the Ministry of Finance. Training was attended by representatives of 17 SE-s.

Pro Bono services planned and implemented in frames of the CSR program are also accessible for SE representatives.

### **Youth Component**

In order to support the development of the social entrepreneurship in the country with integration of innovative and creative youth potential, we actively cooperate with students of Georgian universities. Since 2012, our team successfully implements the competition "Students in Support of Social Enterprises", which is annually announced all over Georgia.

## Competition “Students in Support of Social Enterprises 2017”

Competition provides the opportunity for students to apply theoretical knowledge in practice and to expand the sphere of their interests. Competition helps to introduce the social entrepreneurship idea to more young people and involve them in the SE field. During the competition students meet with Georgian social entrepreneurs and representatives of business sector. Each of four student teams that went through to the semifinals received GEL 1500 to implement their projects; besides, each team got an opportunity to work with resident advisors. In the finals of the competition, the jury members selected one winning team.

In 2017, more than 100 students from 10 universities of Georgia, as well as 4 Social Enterprises (“Ethnodesign”, “Art House”, “Peacock” and “Music Therapy Center”) took part in the competition. Within the competition frames, training seminars on Social Entrepreneurship as well as excursions to various Georgian SEs were organized.

**Accomplishments – Students produced 4 videos for Social Enterprises.  
Percentage of sales in all enterprises increased.  
New lines of production were developed.**

Students Award Ceremony took place on June 16, 2017, in restaurant Eco Garden. All teams received awards established by partners and donors. Winning team – Group #11 – was awarded jointly by APM Terminals Poti and CSR DG with an opportunity to travel to France and participate in International Summit of Social Business.

Competition was conducted in frames of the projects funded by European Union and Bread for the World. Event was also supported by the APM Terminals Poti, network of shops “Lutecia”, “Kareli Fruits”, “Sarajishvili House”, “Kinki Design”, music band “Mix2Ra”, social enterprise “Music Therapy Center”. Partners of the event were: TV program “Business Morning”, information agency “Publicity.ge”, magazines “Tabula” and “Liberal”, newspaper “Georgia Today”.

## The International Conference on Social Entrepreneurship

The International Conference on Social Entrepreneurship devoted to the "Mechanisms for State Support of Social Entrepreneurship" was held on September 22, 2017. Conference was attended by SE experts from Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, as well as by representatives of Georgian private, governmental and civil society organizations. Conference aimed to review the best international SE practices and develop recommendations for the State with regard to specific SE supporting mechanisms that would ultimately promote development and popularization of Social Entrepreneurship in country. Conference was organized within EU-funded project “Social Entrepreneurship – Innovative Approach to Economic and Social Changes” implemented jointly by CSR DG, ASB Georgia and Education Development and Employment Center.

**Seminar “Venture Philanthropy and Social Investments”.** On November 3, 2017, in frames of the EU-funded project, and in partnership with EVPA (European Venture Philanthropy Association) and Geocell, we invited the international expert, CEE Manager of EVPA Ewa Konczal – to convene seminar on “Venture Philanthropy and Social Investment - Innovative and Strategic Approach to Positive Social Impact”. During the seminar, the following issues were discussed: what is venture philanthropy and social investment; opportunities to involve corporations; opportunities for venture philanthropy and social investment development in Georgia, etc.

**B2B Exhibition.** For the first time in Georgia, we conducted a B2B Exhibition in Georgia, which aimed to establish and deepen the business relations between social enterprises and leading business companies, promote the social entrepreneurship concept and support its development in Georgia.

**As a result of 68 B2B meetings, within a short period of time social enterprises received corporate orders totaling GEL 63,245**

The event took place in Garden Hall of Ilia’s Garden on November 3, 2017. During the Exhibition, business companies were able to get acquainted with the diverse production of Georgian SEs in one space and, depending on their own interests and needs, negotiate future cooperation with any of the represented enterprises.

**21 Social Enterprises and 67 representatives of 44 business companies took part in B2B Exhibition**

B2B exhibition presented corporate gifts and souvenirs, eco-toys, traditional handmade items, greetings cards, children's furniture and playgrounds, woven baskets, honey, spices, natural juices, wine and also number of interesting services such as waste paper processing, organization of camping, musical therapy and others. Event was organized within the 3-year project “Social Entrepreneurship – Innovative Approach to Economic and Social Changes” funded by the European Union and Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt / BtW). Partners of the event were “Social Enterprises Alliance”, “Garden Hall” (as a host of the event), Bank of Georgia Foundation “Tree of Life” (Major Partner), APM Terminals Poti (Golden Sponsor), Microfinance Organization “Crystal” (Golden Sponsor) and Georgian Industrial Group (Silver Sponsor). B2B event will be organized annually.

**Social Entrepreneurship Forum 2017** – the Forum usually summarizes the year and aims to popularize the social entrepreneurship concept, enhance cooperation and partnership among organizations working in the field and develop the sector as such. Forum is conducted annually since 2012 and it selects and awards the best Social Enterprise of the year and the best Start-Up Social Enterprise of the year. The 2017 Forum took place on December 7-8 in Courtyard Marriott hotel. Agenda of the Forum included share of experience accumulated during the past years, discussion on the role of the youth organizations in sustainable development of the social entrepreneurship, preparations of the Alliance members' meeting for strategic planning process. Traditionally, the Social Entrepreneurship Forum named the winners in the Start-Up Social Enterprise of the Year – SE Green Gift and the Social Enterprise of the Year – SE Kodala.

Apart from the start-up and advanced social enterprises, representatives from civil society organizations, state and business sector, altogether 120 participants. Forum was funded in frames of the 3-year project “Social Entrepreneurship – Innovative Approach to Economic and Social Changes” funded by the European Union and Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt / BtW).

This year, for the first time in Forum history, the special focus was made on those representatives of private sector whose activities support social entrepreneurship development in country; these are Bank of Georgia, Geocell, APM Terminals Poti, Microfinance organization “Crystal” and “Business Media Georgia”. All these companies received presents made by “Ikorta”. The main partner of the Forum was Bank of Georgia. Media supporters – Business Morning, Georgia Today, Publicity.Ge and BusinessPressNews.



## Anexes

1. [Anex #1 – 2016-2017 Financial / Audit Report](#)
2. [Anex #2 – Project financed in 2017](#)