

Monthly Report 01-02/09



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members

From: I. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Executive Director

Subject: January-February Monthly Report

Date: 4 March, 2009

1. Local situation review

- The City of Kutaisi met the year of 2009 with a rehabilitated city center. The first phase of rehabilitation activities in the central part of the city was completed. 15 million GEL was spent from the State Budget. In the frames of the project underground activities were implemented, communication, power supply systems, natural gas and water pipes were totally changed. The roadways were polished and outside illumination modern systems were installed. As President Saakashvili declared during his presentation, nearly the same amount of money will be spent for the second phase of the rehabilitation project. The activities will start from spring 2009 and will totally cover the central part of the city.

After August events the situation in Kutaisi and overall, in the country is somehow calm and tranquil. The number of "new IDPs" in Kutaisi is decreased but still we have up to 180 IDP households remaining in the city. Based on the decision of Government authorities, there will be 3 buildings allocated to shelter IDPs (the reconstruction activities are to be completed in these facilities). Central budget covered all expenses to achieve this purpose.

- IDP Coordination Board still keeps working. The UNHCR Kutaisi Field-Office, which started its activities in our town from November 2008 is a chair of this board.
- As for the political situation in the country, it is still tensed. Russian militaries still control Akhagori district, Kodori gorge and village Perevi. This is a rude violation of Sarkozy-Medvedev cease-fire agreement.

2. Implemented Activities

- First of all, I would like to inform you all that, based on the decision of local self-government, 2 rooms were allocated as an office space for the LDA Georgia and it is located in the same building where local self-government is working. I would like to personally thank all of them who made this decision and hereby, I am informing you our new address: 3a, Rustaveli Avenue, Kutaisi.
- As I have informed before, the 3 shelter buildings for new IDPs are on the stage of to be completed soon. Considering their needs and based on the agreement with local self-government, LDA Georgia managed to purchase electric heaters (117 total) and it will be transferred to IDPs after they move to their new destination i.e. shelters. This action was financially supported by Newport-Kutaisi Association and ALDA. Hereby, I am grateful to all who shared the problems of Georgian IDPs and participated in this action.
- In the reporting period, LDA Georgia actively worked in drafting of new projects, 9 project-proposals were developed and submitted to different organization, in particular:

1. At the end of December 2008, LDA Georgia has submitted a proposal to UN Development Foundation "Empower of Civil Society in Georgia". The aim of the project

is to empower a civil society, including women and vulnerable groups by improving their capacities of dialogue and how to advocate their interests; by strengthening their involvement in decision-making process, by encouraging of dialogue among governmental bodies and citizens work from below with civil society. The project implementer organization is ALDA and partner organizations are CIMS Consulting; Kutaisi municipality; Georgian Association of Local Authorities; Monfalcone, ASAEL. The total budget of the project is \$304,180.00. We will have information about preliminary results about funding in September 2009.

2. In January 2009, the Eurasia Cooperation Fund issued a request for proposals on Ecological Awards Program. In the frames of the RFA, the LDA Georgia along with Waste-savers from Newport, UK prepared a proposal about how to "Raise Awareness on Waste Management through Education" and a goal of the project is to increase public awareness on the need to reduce household waste and (2) its most effective re-use or disposal. This is a pilot project and will be implemented in Kutaisi Public School #7. Besides an informational component, in the frames of the project is an educational component as well. It is about a training sessions conducted in Newport by waste-savers for teachers from 10 public schools of Kutaisi. The project will be managed by LDA Georgia and partner organizations are Newport City Council Waste-savers Charitable Trust Ltd and Kutaisi Educational Resource Centre. Duration of the project is 15 months and preliminary budget is \$85,639.62. About RFA results we will be informed at the beginning of March 2009.

3. As you are aware, LDA Georgia with partnership of "International Initiatives Bureau", an organization from Poland, implemented "Active Georgia. Women's Academy" project. The project management staff visited Kutaisi and they had meeting with David Gogisvanidze, Andro Losaberidze and Merab Meshveliani - Kutaisi City Council members. Tourism support was named as one of the priorities for local area development. Regarding this all, we have drafted a new proposal together with our Polish partners about "Tourism planning and management as a tool of local development of the Region of Imereti and City of Kutaisi. Experience of the local government and Malopolski District". The project was submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs of Poland. Its duration is 12 months and draft budget is EUR 40,000.00. The project is managed by Polish partner and local partners are represented by LDA Georgia and Kutaisi local City Council.

4. At the end of January 2009 the joint proposal was submitted to EU call for grants contest on non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development Actions in partner countries (for local Authorities). The proposal was drafted based on the initiative from Chisinau (the city in Moldova) and partner organizations are local self-government and LDA Georgia. The project aims to construct and renovate town squares and parks according to European standards. Project duration is 2 years and its preliminary budget amount is EUR 810,000.00

5. In the month of January, the "EVS-The Way to European Understanding" project was prepared with ALDA and it aims to promote and support European voluntary service (EVS)activities in the city of Kutaisi. The project is managed by ALDA and partner organizations are: LDA Georgia, Kutaisi Department of Youth Affairs and NGOs from France, Italy, Lithuania; Poland; Armenia; Azerbaijan; and Moldova. Project's duration is 5 months and requested budget amount is EUR 29,786.00. The project will be submitted before April 1st, 2009 to France National Agency of SALTO.

6. "Active Women-Active Society!" proposal was prepared in February 2009 and submitted to the Embassy of Canada in Turkey for their call of proposals contest. The aim of the project is to enhance women involvement and promote local women's rights in Imereti

Region and particularly in 6 municipalities. Project will last for 8 months and requested amount for funding is \$ 19,699.56. The successful proposals will be selected in April 2009.

7. In February 2009 we have submitted "Internally Displaced Youth Capacity Enhancement" project to OSGF. The goal of the project is to support integration of internally displaced young representatives to local society and how to increase their involvement in ordinary life after August events. The project will be implemented in new IDP shelters (collective centres) and its duration is 8 months. Project draft budget is \$14,493.80. The project will be managed by LDA Georgia and partner institutions are Kutaisi Department of Youth Affairs and Youth Theatre.

8. In February 2009, LDA Georgia drafted two proposals along with different coalition organizations for EU Grants Contest entitled as "Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue" (CIUDAD). One of the lead organizations for one proposal is a city of Lecce, Italy and the aim of the project is to fight against social disparities and the strengthen of policies of sustainable economic development in the city area by encouraging the study and share of good practices in the participatory planning process on urban development among the Countries involved (Italy, Moldova, Georgia and Bosnia Herzegovina). Project partners are Ipres, LDA Georgia, the City of Kutaisi, ALDA and LDA Mostar. The project will last for 2 years and its preliminary budget is EUR 400,000.00.

The second consortium was prepared in the frames of the same call for grants contest and it is led by the City of Monfalcone and the project aim is good governance and sustainable urban development planning. More specifically, the questions to be addressed are the following:

- ✓ The transport system (both people and goods) from an internal perspective and the external one, related not only to arrival and departure of goods, but also linked to workers (commuters in particular);
- ✓ Services for workers (residents, commuters and short-term residents)
- ✓ Complexity of social configuration linked to immigration.

Project partners are LDA Georgia, the City of Kutaisi, the City of Odessa and Odessa State University. Project duration is 36 months and its preliminary budget is EUR 412.500.00.

9. At the end of February ALDA submitted a "Local Coalitions for Development Actions in Kutaisi" proposal to Permanent Representation office of Georgia in the Council of Europe. The purpose of submission is to find out support of Georgian permanent representation in the lobbying of mentioned proposal and finding financial recourses for its implementation. The aim of the project is developing human resources of the local civil society and at strengthening the capacity of local civil society organisations for building more effective cross-sector co-operation and partnerships within a wider context of awareness raising and education for sustainable development. Project partner organizations are: Local Democracy Agency Georgia; The school of political studies Georgia; Georgian Young Lawyers Association; Association of Young Economists of Georgia; National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia; City of Kutaisi; Association of local authorities of Aragon, Spain; Municipality of Monfalcone, Italy. Project duration is 24 months and draft budget amount is EUR 250,000.00.

- As you are informed, Ana Therville, a student from Brest University (France) is doing internship in LDA Georgia. She will stay in Kutaisi till April 20 and she will be engaged in preparing European projects with LDA Georgia. On February 11, 2009 with Ana, we had a meeting in Tbilisi with Mr. Hubert Duhot, Attaché of at the French Embassy in Tbilisi. Mr. Duhot expressed his gratification on LDA's cooperation with the cities of Strasbourg and Nantes in France and showed his readiness on behalf of the Embassy to issue a

- In February, Tbilisi representatives in LDA confirmed that they are ready to pay membership fee for 2009 in the amount of EUR 1000. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the decision making process. As you are aware, base on the LDA Statute, this type of decision needs agreement from LDA Georgia Governing Board. Considering this, LDA Georgian Governing Boards were sent letters about invitations for Governing Board Meeting which will be held on March 12, 2009. Also, according to Statute of LDA Georgia it is possible to make a decision (on membership fee) based on written notification which in the form of a letter with insurance should arrive to the address of the LDA Georgia Kutaisi, 2 days before Governing Board Meeting i.e. on March 10, 2009. I hope that Governing Board Members reply will be preceded in a timely manner.

Plans for Future

- To prepare for Governing Board Meeting
- To disseminate electric heaters to IDPs and prepare a final report
- To work on Black Sea Fund grants proposal
- In partnership with Monfalcone municipality to work on development of joint cooperation proposal under call of Friuli-Venezia Julia Region
- In partnership with ALDA to work on Call of Veneto Region to submit project proposal on active citizenship.

Photos of rehabilitated city center



White Bridge



Mon-Plaisir Cinema



Kutaisi Akaki Tsereteli Public School No. 1



White Bridge

Monthly Report 03/09



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members

From: I. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Executive Director

Subject: March Monthly Report

Date: 4 April, 2009

1. Local situation review

- In March the rehabilitation activities were continued in our town. The main road cover was totally replaced and changed with a new one at Chavchavadze Avenue, the one of the main streets of Kutaisi. This year local budget is more than GEL 20 million, so we hope that many useful activities will be implemented in Kutaisi. Additional GEL 20 million will be transferred from the central budget and it will be allocated for rehabilitation of central part of the city. So, we expect many positive changes to take place around.
- As for the political situation in the country, unfortunately it is still tensed. Opposition parties still refuse to be in dialogue regime with government. They prepare for the big meeting to be held on the 9th of April in Tbilisi. Russian militaries still control Akhagori district, Kodori gorge and village Perevi. This is a rude violation of Sarkozy-Medvedev cease-fire agreement.

2. Implemented activities

- On March 13th, 2009 LDA Georgia had delivered 117 electric heaters to local IDPs. Just to remind that the action was financially supported by Newport-Kutaisi Association and ALDA. Mr. Nugzar Shamugia, the Mayor of Kutaisi and the Vice-mayors Mr. Zaza Nutsubidze and Mr. David Gordeladze also participated in this action. The IDPs were very much grateful. I would use a chance and on behalf of IDPs, local self-government and LDA Georgia convey our thanks to all who took part in fund-raising activity.
- In March, "Georgian Auditors Company" has conducted a financial auditing procedure in LDA Georgia of the financial statements, recording and accounts for the year of 2008. They provided us with a positive conclusion on proper financial management in LDA Georgia according to international financial and auditing standards. I would like to use a chance and thank Tea Nutsubidze, financial and administrative assistant of LDA Georgia Executive Director for successful work she did.
- In the reporting period LDA Georgia has prepared 4 new projects which were submitted for funding. In particular:
 - ✓ "Georgian Diaspora for Kutaisi Development" project was prepared in Netherlands by "Kartuli Satvistomo" (Georgian Diaspora) organization for the EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative's Call for Proposals. The goal of the project is to support small and micro business development in Kutaisi with support and participation of Georgian Diaspora in Holland. It is planned to provide some educational and exchange programs for local entrepreneurs to present Dutch technologies to Georgian entrepreneurs. The duration of the project is 2 years with a budget of EUR 200,000. The project management will be made by Dutch side.

- ✓ The second project "Compasito - as a tool for teaching children's rights" was prepared by the participation of Ana Therville, intern from France in LDA Georgia. The project aims to prepare a handbook about children's rights based on Compasito's manual prepared for students and teachers to conduct peer educators training and seminars in Kutaisi. Ms. Tamuna Kepuladze will be the project expert. She participated in the training organized by CoE in Bucharest for one week with a support of LDA Georgia. Now she is certified trainer of Compasito. Educational materials will be provided by CoE Informational Office in Georgia and UNICEF Tbilisi office. Project budget is EUR 7,950. The project is submitted for funding to European Youth Foundation.
- ✓ The 3rd project is "Youth against human trafficking and illegal migration" prepared for the call for proposals issued by Eurasian Partnership Foundation. Project idea was endorsed by the Foundation in January and final version was prepared and submitted. The project is drafted for local youth and it will be implemented in schools and high educational institutions. The estimated budget for the project is USD 20,000.
- ✓ Together with ALDA, LDA Georgia has prepared a project which aims to enhance possibilities of "new" IDPs and in particular their community mobilization and creating CBOs on place. Also, the trainings will be conducted and office equipment provided. The project was submitted to call for proposals issued by Veneto region (Italy).
- In March, 2009 LDA Georgia started preparation for informational seminar and 3 day training courses about European Voluntary Service in the frames of "Youth the Right Direction" project. Informational meeting will be conducted for students of high educational institutions and training for representatives of local NGOs working in the youth field. These activities will be funded by "Youth the Right Direction" project and it will be facilitated by SALTO Georgian multipliers.
- Last month we have received some unpleasant information. We had 2 rejection letters received from organizations. One for the joint project with Newport - "Raise Awareness on the Waste Management through Education" and which was submitted to Eurasia Partnership Foundation and other for "Capacity Enhancement for young IDPs which was submitted to OSGF for funding.
- In March we planned to have LDA Georgia Governing Board Meeting, but it failed because GB members did not provide timely the written agreement about acceptance of membership fee paid by City of Tbilisi for 2009. Hereby, I would like to ask to GB members to inform us what is the situation concerning the letter delivery. The date of the meeting will be set up based on the provided information.

3. Plans for future

- Preparation for LDA GB Meeting.
- Working on the joint project with the City of Monfalcone in the frames on CFP issued in Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy.
- Preparation of the project on EVS and submission of it to ALDA

Monthly Report 04-05/09



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members

From: I. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Executive Director

Subject: April-May Monthly Report

Date: 4 June, 2009

1. Local situation review

- The central part of the town is still being renewed. The work over the central street project has been doing and the revival of facades and road is going to begin from June.
- As for the political situation, it is still complicated. Opposition has held two big meetings on the 9th April and on the 26th May. The meeting between Saakashvili and the leaders of opposition also was arranged, but unfortunately it finished without any agreement. It can be said that the country is in a very difficult situation which is intensified by global economic crisis, that's the obstacle for the country to develop. Russian troops are still patrolling Akhagori region, Kodori Gorge and village Perevi. Russian, Abkhazian and South Ossetian de facto navy forces are controlling boundary and they build border buildings on the occupied territories. Unfortunately Russia doesn't follow issues mentioned in Sarkozy-Medvedev agreement and efforts of international society to enforce Russia follow the above mentioned agreement isn't effective.

2. Implemented activities

- I want to begin my report with good news. There was a joint project of Agency and ALDA foresees to capacity building of "new" refugees, particularly, community mobilising project in the collective centers of refugees and to establish community based organizations (CBO). Project was financed by Region Veneto, Italy. The project will be implemented into the three IDP centers during 5 months, budget of project is 20 000 EUR.
- As you have known, The Agency disseminated 117 electro heaters to the refugees in March, which were purchased by financial support of the Association of Newport-Kutaisi and ALDA. Amount of 143 GEL was left from that fund and based on agreement with NKA different books were purchased and gifted to Kutaisi #44 public school. I would like to use the chance, and on behalf of the refugees, local self-government and the Agency, to thank everybody who was involved gathering of funds.
- On 13-15 May Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Georgia and Kutaisi Youth Affairs Civil Service organized informational meeting and 2 day-training on "Youth in Action" programme in Kutaisi. The informational meeting was held to the high educated students in Akaki Tsereteli State University. Meeting was attended by: Kutaisi Mayor Mr. Nugzar Shamugia, Vice-Mayor David Gordeladze, the head of the State University Mr. Giorgi Oniani, and the head of Kutaisi Youth Affairs Civil Service - Mrs. Khatuna Tsanova. Also, there were about 70 students from the Universities. Two-day training was intended for the representatives of the local Non-Governmental Organizations, who work in youth field. There were 17 participants, who have been given certificates. The event was facilitated by SALTO EECA multipliers Rusudan Kalichava and Giorgi Kakulia.

- On 27th of April LDA Georgia Governing Board was organized in Kutaisi. The meeting details are given in the attached document.
- The project-proposal by participation of Municipality of Monfalcone, the partner of the Agency, City of Kutaisi and LDA Georgia was submitted to the CFP announced by Friuli-Venezia Julia region, Italy. Project aims to support small business development in Kutaisi and Imereti Region. Project duration is one year with 35 000 EURO budget. Decision about founding will be announced in September.
- The celebration of the 10th anniversary of ALDA took place at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels on 25-27 of May. There were presented the up most relevant achievements of the Association and its members and LDAs since its establishment. See details on http://alda-europe.eu/alda/front_content.php?idcat=2&idart=506
- Unfortunately, the project "Compasito - instrument for learning of children's' rights" was not financed, prepared by the French student girl Ann Terryville being on practice. The project was presented to the European Youth Foundation to get a fund.

3. Plans for Future

- To prepare for New Projects
- To participate into the training-course of " Create opportunities of monitoring and evaluation of civil society of Georgia"
- To participate into the International Conference of "The cities role in the European neighbor policy"