

## Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth



EUROPEAN UNION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUTH  
ORGANIZATIONS OF GEORGIA

### “Advancing youth participation in local and regional life”

Hotel Sheraton, Tbilisi, 29 November 2019

#### Background

The [Georgian National Youth Policy](#) which was adopted in 2014 set out the Government’s priorities in the field of youth policy and youth work. The policy aims to encourage the establishment of the relevant environment for comprehensive youth development. It also emphasises the importance of supporting young people to realise their full potential and creating opportunities for the youth to be involved in social, economic, cultural and political life.

There are number of challenges that young people in Georgia are still facing which is also aggravated by the continuous political and structural instability. Disengagement of young people - particularly of young people belonging to vulnerable groups; poor quality education and training; lack of decent employment possibilities; insufficient opportunities of non-formal education and quality youth work; lack of effective youth participation mechanisms, are some of the obstacles that young people are faced with. The National Youth Policy addresses these challenges and sets youth participation among its four strategic priorities.

The research<sup>1</sup> reveals the lack of youth participation both at national and local levels. Although local authorities provide youth services (mainly sports and cultural sections) to youth, the voices of young people are not being heard due to the absence of youth participation mechanisms in the majority of municipalities in Georgia. The studies show that though the local authorities try to attract and engage young people in decision-making processes (consultative participation), the involvement and motivation of young people to engage remains low, especially among youth from rural areas.

Georgian youth policy also recognises the importance of international cooperation and the role of the Council of Europe and the EU in youth policy development. Thus, this conference

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<sup>1</sup> Generation in Transition: Youth Study 2016 – Georgia, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 2017.



seeks to learn from innovative approaches and good practices in European countries to enhance youth participation in local life. Establishing and developing successful mechanism for youth participation in Georgia through European cooperation will be a valuable resource for the implementation of the National Youth Policy Document and the [Georgian State Youth Policy Development Action Plan 2015-2020](#). Consequently, the conference intends to lay the ground for a lasting cooperation between Georgia and other European countries on the matters of youth engagement, youth participation in local life and the development of inclusive and participatory youth policy work at local and national levels.

### **Aim**

The aim of the conference is to strengthen the capacities of Georgian stakeholders (at national, regional, local levels) in the field of youth participation and to provide opportunities for the development of international cooperation between Georgia and other European countries in the area of youth participation.

### **Objectives**

- Improve knowledge and understanding of the concepts and formats of youth participation and the role youth work can play in strengthening it;
- Provide space for sharing good practices (policy initiatives, programmes, structural mechanisms) and tools for effective youth participation at local and regional levels;
- Stimulate further cooperation between Georgian stakeholders to promote and develop youth participation;
- Encourage long-lasting international cooperation on the matters of youth participation.

### **Date and venue**

29 November 2019, Hotel Sheraton, Tbilisi, Georgia

### **Language**

English and Georgian (with simultaneous interpretation)

### **Participants**

- Representatives of Ministries related to youth issues;
- Members of the Georgian Parliament and Georgian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Representatives of regional authorities;
- Representatives of the Association of Local Governments and Regional Authorities;
- Representatives of local authorities in charge of youth issues/youth policy in Georgia and beyond;
- Young people from local youth initiatives, local youth councils and youth organisations in Georgia and beyond;
- Youth representatives of the National Council of Youth Organisations of Georgia;
- Representative of the European Youth Forum;

- Representatives of international civil society organisations promoting youth participation in Georgia;
- Representatives of international organisations;
- Representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia;
- Representatives of the Council of Europe; Members of the European Steering Committee on Youth; Members of the Advisory Council on Youth;
- Members of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- Youth researchers;
- International Foundations supporting youth research and youth projects in Georgia.

### **Organizing team**

Youth Agency of Georgia

National Council of Youth Organisations of Georgia

The conference is organised with the support of the EU-CoE youth partnership.

### **Draft programme**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Programme elements</b>
9:00-9:30	Registration
9:30-10:15	Introduction and welcome session. Moderator: Nina Gogoladze, Giorgi Kakulia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revaz Charkviani, Youth Agency</li> <li>- Maia Tskitishvili, Vice Prime Minister of Georgia (tbc)</li> <li>- Representative of the Council of Europe</li> <li>- Representative of the EU Delegation to Georgia</li> <li>- Nino Tsulaia, Chairperson of the National Council of Youth Organisations of Georgia</li> </ul>
10:15-11:15	Dr. Tomi Kiilakoski - Keynote speech on the concepts and principles of youth participation (followed by Q&A)
11:15-11:45	Coffee break



11:45-12:45	<p>Exploring different models of youth participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth movements</li> <li>- Digital youth participation</li> <li>- Youth Councils</li> <li>- Youth NGOs</li> </ul>
12:45-14:15	Lunch
14:15-16:00	<p>Sharing good practices and tools for authentic youth participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council of Europe Revised Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and 'Have Your Say' Manual</li> <li>- Co-management system of the Council of Europe – representative of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe</li> <li>- Other models of youth participation – representative of the European Youth Forum</li> </ul>
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-17:30	Working groups on building partnerships and cooperation for enhancing youth participation in Georgia.
17:30-18:00	<p>Presentation of the conclusions of the working groups</p> <p>Closing of event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marta Medlinska, EU-CoE youth partnership</li> <li>- Revaz Charkviani, Head of the Youth Agency</li> </ul>

