

# Newsletter

May 2019

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## RDFG at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva

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On May 16, 2019, Mr. Vano Grigolashvili, the head of the RDFG Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Center was invited by the Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative (CADRI) to participate in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction conducted in Geneva from 13<sup>th</sup> to – 17<sup>th</sup> of May to represent the Georgian experience on collaboration between state and non-state actors in prioritizing the DDR agenda in the development sector. In the CADRI event on ‘Do’s and Don’t’s’ of developing national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies, Mr. Grigolashvili sat on the panel to discuss lessons learned for involving CSOs and NGOs in the actual implementation of DRR strategies, how CSOs and NGOs can be effectively involved in the development of national and local DRR strategies, and how can their engagement be sustained throughout implementation. Within the open discussion, he delivered a speech on the

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Global Target of the Sendai Framework on DRR strategies and share their experience and lessons learned in developing and implementing national or local DRR strategies.

Within the panel discussions, representatives from UNDP, UNFAO, and the Deputy Director of the National Disaster Risk Management Program in Serbia, Ms Sandra Nedeljkovic, spoke about the success factors in involving various sectors to participate in DRR strategy development, the lessons from 'localizing' the DRR priorities outlined in the National DRR Strategies, and how the private sector has been brought in to support local action, among other topics. The event was attended by representatives of the public sector, NGOs and private institutions from different countries.

The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) is a global partnership of 19 UN and non-UN organizations committed to leave no one behind and achieve the 2030 agenda by strengthening countries' capacities to reduce disaster and climate risks.

The Global Platform for the Disaster Risk Reduction is a biennial multi-stakeholder forum established by the EU General Assembly to review progress, share knowledge and discuss the latest developments and trends in reducing disaster risk.

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is a critical component of the monitoring and implementation process of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

crucial role played by CSOs and NGOs in shaping national and local DRR strategies and spoke about the RDFG DRR Center's concrete contribution, activities and experience in supporting the implementation of DRR activities in Georgia:

*"The main success factor for achieving positive dynamics in DRR strategy design and its implementation is the Georgian authorities' open door strategy for practical collaboration with international and local non-state actors as well as other stakeholders, and replication of the successful practices of partnering countries," - Vano Grigolashvili, Chairman of RDFG.*

The session brought together experts and practitioners from various countries to showcase the progress made towards the achievement of the



**RDFG** for a better future **RDFG and USAID Zrda Activity joint Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program launching event was held**



Economic Growth Office, USAID and Brian King, Chief of Party for the USAID Zrda Activity spoke about the USAID Zrda Activity and its main aim in Georgia. Then the project presentation began.

On May 29, 2019, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) and USAID Zrda Activity joint Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program launching event was held. The event was attended by Vano Grigolashvili, chairman of RDFG, Veronica Lee, Director of Economic Growth Office, USAID and Brian King, Chief of Party for the USAID Zrda Activity. Among the invited guests also were the representatives of the public and private sector supporting the project, including guests from: Agricultural Projects' Management Agency, Creative Georgia, Enterprise Georgia, Financial Inclusion Organization Crystal, Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency, National Bank of Georgia and National Tourism Administration.

Within the event, opening speech was delivered by Vano Grigolashvili, Chairman of RDFG, who emphasized the importance of the Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program. Afterwards, Veronica Lee, Director of

Revaz Javelidze, Youth Engagement Team Leader of RDFG, presented the project and explained the concrete activities planned in the 9 target municipalities chosen within the project. Then the audience had an opportunity to get the answers to the questions about the project.



USAID Zrda Activity and Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) joint Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program aims to strengthen Rural Youth through Entrepreneurship. Within the project, entrepreneurship skills development trainings will be conducted into two stages. All in all, 5 hundred young people (age of 18-29) living in the 9 target municipalities (Zugdidi, Borjomi, Aspindza, Adigeni, Ninotsminda, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Kaspi and Gori) will be engaged in the project. The

training sessions will be implemented on the basis of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO) entrepreneurial-training manual and will be held in 9 municipalities at the same time. Within each phase, maximum 25 people will be invited to participate in the training sessions in each municipality. After this, the project participants will be required to present their business ideas related to Agriculture, Tourism, Innovations/Technologies and Creative Industry.

Within the second stage, after completion of the local training sessions, the authors of 15 entrepreneurial ideas or the group of authors (max of 3) will be invited to the boot camp in Tbilisi where during 6-7 days they will have an opportunity to attend the intensive training sessions and work on turning their own ideas into the business projects. At the end of the boot camp, the jury will reveal 3 winner business projects that will be awarded with grants: 10 000 GEL, 8 000 GEL, and 6 000 GEL.

The project is supported by Enterprise Georgia, Creative Georgia, Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency, National Tourism Administration, Agricultural Project's Management Agency, Crystal Fund, National Bank of Georgia, etc.

The project will be implemented into 3 phases: I and II phases – Summer and Fall, 2019; III phase – Spring of 2010. The key outputs of the project:

- At least 5 hundred rural youth will undergo entrepreneurship trainings;
- At least 5 new enterprise will be created, 25 people will be employed.



## Within the USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia, RDFG and DRR Center held meetings with the representatives of the Akhaltsikhe and Aspindza Municipality City Halls



Samtskhe-Javakheti Main Division of the Emergency Management Service and Zurab Tsinadze, Head of the Aspindza Fire Rescue Division.

On May 10, 2019, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) and DRR Center of RDFG organized the working meetings with the representatives of the Akhaltsikhe and Aspindza Municipality City Halls. The events were held within the USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia and their main purpose was to introduce RDFG's planned activities related to the disaster risk reduction in the chosen 9 regions of Georgia. At the meeting, the representatives of the local Municipality City Halls expressed their readiness for the future cooperation. Moreover, due to their resources, they have also expressed their full support and mobilization.

The meeting held in Aspindza was attended by Levan Beridze, Deputy Mayor of the ASpindza Municipality City Hall, Ketevan Khmaladze, Regional Development Association within Zrda Activity in Georgia, Team Leader in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Paata Kublashvili, Deputy Head of Samtskhe-Javakheti Main Division of the Emergency Management Service, Merab Abramishvili, Head of the Coordination Department of

The meeting held in Akhaltsikhe was attended by Ruben Karapetian, Deputy Mayor of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality, Ketevan Khmaladze, Regional Development Association within Zrda Activity in Georgia, Team Leader in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Paata Kublashvili, Deputy Head of Samtskhe-Javakheti Main Division of the Emergency Management Service, Merab Abramishvili, Head of the Coordination Department of Samtskhe-Javakheti Main Division of the Emergency Management Service and Badri Lekishvili, Head of the Akhaltsikhe Fire Rescue Division.

USAID Zrda Activity is a five-year program designed to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth in target regions. As it is impossible to support the sustainable economic development without creating safe environment, the project consists of disaster risk reduction activities on the local level, elaborating municipal emergency management plans according to modern standards and implementing relevant methods at the level of instructions. Within the project, DRR activities are being implemented by the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) and DRR Center of RDFG.



## RDFG beneficiaries at the Europe Day 2019



On May 5, 2019, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) beneficiaries participated in the Europe Day 2019 held in Rike Park. The rural development projects – the cheese factory “Tsintsikaro +”, the wine brand “Alexander Distillery” and “Adventure-Rope Park” in the Algeti National Park, implemented under the scope of the EU ENPARD programme, had an opportunity to present their products/service at the Rural Development Initiatives’ fair. The event was organized by the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia. Within the Rural Development Initiatives’ fair, the guests had an opportunity to taste different varieties of cheese made at the cheese factory “Tsinstkaro +”. They have also tasted the wine and whiskey produced by the “Alexander Distillery”. Furthermore, one of the RDFG’s beneficiaries has also presented the photo exhibition of the “Adventure-Rope Park” located in the Algeti National Park. All the projects mentioned above are being implemented under the scope of the EU ENPARD programme.

Before getting funded, the cheese factory “Tsintsikaro +” had been producing only cheese but now it is going to produce “matsoni”, “do” and other Georgian dairy products. It is worth mentioning that all products in the factory are made of natural milk and have the relevant mark – “Georgian Milk”.



“Alexander Distillery” unites production of different varieties of wine, Sharbat (subcontinental drink prepared from fruits or flower petals) and Chacha (a strong spirit similar to vodka or brandy). Aleksander Kvernadze, the project beneficiary, has decided to use qvevri for making whisky. There are lots of varieties of whisky but qvevri-made whisky is something unique.

“Adventure-Rope Park” is another rural development project implemented in the Algeti National Park. The rope course consists of different kinds and levels of challenges, including bridges and walkways. “Adventure-Rope Park” will be opened soon and will be a good attraction for youth.

Within the EU ENPARD programme, over 35 rural development projects in the Tetrtskaro municipality, including the sectors of agriculture, infrastructure, tourism, education, social and municipal services have been supported by the EU and implemented by RDFG with a help of LAG. These projects facilitate creation of 180 permanent and 35 temporary jobs in Tetrtskaro.

The EU-funded project “Rural Development for Sustainable Growth in the Tetrtskaro Municipality” is implemented by EU partner organisation, RDFG. The project aims to improve the quality of life in the Tetrtskaro municipality through the introduction of innovative social-economic models and engagement of local private and public sectors in the decision making. RDFG is partnering with the Agro-Technology Association and the Lithuanian Local Action Groups Network to carry out the action.



## THE TETRITSKARO LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) HOSTED THE LATVIAN LAG

On May 3, 2019, the Tetrtskaro Local Action Group (LAG) together with the representatives of the Lagodekhi and Borjomi LAGs have hosted the Latvian LAG. The meeting was organized by the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) in the Tetrtskaro municipality, within the TNC project “Horse Industry: possibilities today and in future”. The main purpose of the event was to share experience and discuss the challenges in the Horse Industry.

After the official part of the meeting held in the RDFG’s local office, the guests had an opportunity to visit the Tetrtskaro horse farm and enjoy horse riding.

The aim of the TNC project “Horse Industry: possibilities today and in future” is to promote the competitiveness of equine industry: stables, horse breeders, horse farms, tourism farms and their services, by developing a cooperation network of local and foreign horse breeders, promoting the exchange of good practice, experiences and adapting them in local area.

Within the project mentioned above, partnership agreement is signed between the Local Action Groups from Latvia, Finland and Georgia, including the Tetrtskaro LAG led by its executive director Nino Tikurishvili.

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