



**PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY CDD
WITH THE GEORGIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
2014 – 2017**



was established on February 26, 2008 in Tbilisi, Georgia. It is democratic, impartial, representative NGO with creative, dynamic and enthusiastic team. We aim to advance development of democracy in Georgia via

building publics' trust and awareness about rule of law, human rights, Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic Integration.

The results of a survey released by the International Republican Institute (IRI) in April, 2017 shows a slight increase in the support of the Georgian population towards Georgia's EU (March, 2017 - 90%; March, 2016 - 85%) and NATO (March, 2017 - 82%; March, 2016 - 79%) aspirations, which is very high and we see positive role in conducting active work with different target groups of the general public and communicating the benefits of being part of the larger European family with them.



Taking into consideration the aggressive anti-western (Russian state) propaganda it becomes clear how important it is to work with different target groups on increasing awareness and busting the myths.

The Patriarchate of the Georgian Orthodox Church is one of the most popular and respected institutions in Georgia. Based on latest polls from the above mentioned IRI survey the work of the GoC is assessed as favourable by 88% of the population, which makes it most trusted institution in the country.



Based on official data available after the 2014 census 83.4% of total population are Orthodox Christian (3 097 600 person). Going back to 2012, Polls of National Democratic Institute (NDI) show interesting picture: to the question - how important is your religious beliefs in making daily decisions majority of Georgia population responded very important (36%) and important (48%). In addition, more than 35% of Georgian population goes to church almost on a daily/weekly basis, apart from special occasions.

It is crucial to underline that Georgian Orthodox Church and Its' representatives have a great role in Georgian society and are respected by the wider public across the country, so working with them in order to reach out to wider public has become priority direction for CDD from 2014.





SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR AWARENESS RAISING & MYTH BUSTING

Thanks to the financial support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Georgia, British Embassy Tbilisi, Good Governance Fund (GGF), National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and Embassy of the United States of America to Georgia, CDD in partnership with the Education System of PoG and Education Center of Patriarchate of Georgia named after David the Builder since December, 2014 has implemented several ground-breaking projects in addressing lack of awareness, skills development and myth busting activities. Process included a pilot phase, active feedback sessions, diverse methodology for adult learning and number of very important components.

Number of Educational projects conducted during 2014 – 2017 included number of **meetings, open lectures, workshops and intensive trainings** were a great success, directly reaching out to up to 3000 representatives and affiliates of the Georgian Orthodox Church like clergy: Bishops, Priests, Nuns, as well as members of the general public & parishioners: teachers, members of administration and students of education Institutions under the Patriarchate of Georgia from across the country.





TV SERIES “GEORGIA, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN FAMILY”

TV Series “Georgia, Member of the European Family”, was aired by Patriarchy Television “Ertsulovneba”. In the framework of the project 18 episodes each 45 min. were prepared and aired. Project was implemented with financial support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Georgia in partnership with Patriarchy Television “Ertsulovneba” and Democracy Lab.

¹See the full version of the all episodes of TV show “Georgia in the European family” on Youtube Channel and at: <https://goo.gl/Pu16w8>



TV program covered all the main directions of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, like: DCFTA, Agriculture, Tourism and Infrastructure, Cultural Heritage and geographical Indications, Education, Sports and Youth affairs, Environment and Ecology, Food safety, Conflict resolution, Visa Liberalisation, etc. TV Series collected somewhat 250 000 reaches on social media and was seen by somewhat 200 000 Families.



STUDY VISITS OF THE GEORGIAN ORTHODOX CLERGY TO EUROPEAN AND EURO-ATLANTIC INSTITUTIONS

In 2016 – 2017 two study visits of the high rank delegation of Georgian Orthodox clergy to the European and Euro-Atlantic Institutions to Brussels was organized. Number of high level meetings in NATO HQ, EU Institutions, European Parliament, etc were held.

Study visits became one of the most visible as well as truly important activities. About 70 TV, Radio and Online stories were produced by Georgian Media about the visit, which was called and referred to as an “Historical visit”, Radio Freedom called visit as unforgettable event of 2016 and etc.

After the visit the Patriarchate of Georgia made an official statement *“It [...] turned out that both at NATO and EU, they had a wrong perception of the Georgian Church, and we also had a wrong impression about their policy toward a number of issues,”* the statement reads. *“Concerning Georgas aspiration towards Euro-Atlantic membership, this is choice of Georgian people and church respects this choice”* – which is basically first official statement from PoG, which is stating that they support the choice of the Georgian people concerning European and Euro-Atlantic Integration. It truly exceeded all expected results of the organizers to see representatives of Georgian orthodox Church so openly talking and discussing results and findings of the visit with general public, including via media.



CDD EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE TO ALL THE PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE PROJECT

Project became unique opportunity for uniting diverse group of actors and stakeholders:

- *Patriarchate of Georgia;*
- *Education Center Named after St. King David the Builder of Patriarchate of Georgia;*
- *Diocese of Belgium and Kingdom of Netherlands of the Patriarchate of Georgia;*
- *Information Center on NATO and EU;*
- *State Ministers office in European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia;*
- *Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands;*
- *Patriarchate Television "Ertsulovneba";*
- *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia;*
- *Mission of Georgia to NATO;*
- *Embassy of Georgia to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU;*
- *NATO Public Diplomacy Division;*
- *East StratCom Task Force of European External Action Service.*



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