

THE INSTITUTE FOR CHANGE & INNOVATION

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19 years of loovation and Change

2002-2021 ACTIVITY REPORT www.ici.org.ge

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PREFACE

In 2001, a group of like-minded people aimed to improve the environment for children's development and for young people living in Guría, and soon the ídea spread its wings - on June 5, 2002, we established "The Guría Youth Resource Center".

Our organization brought together some experienced and some inexperienced but enthusiastic young people. The result of hard work was not long in coming. In the very first year of our existence, we became partners of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and a youth space was established in the organization - "Group of Young Leaders". In addition, with the support of the Peace Corps, we received a grant from America Online (AOL) to establish a satellite internet center in Ozurgeti. With US Embassy support we also started working with schools in the Guria region, and with the first grant from the Europe Foundation we were able to reach rural youth. Gradually, the goals of our organization became more diverse and, along with children and young people, adults also joined us. Our operations now extend beyond the Guria region, and our fields of activity has also diversified.

The projects implemented by Guria Youth Resource Center over the last 19 years, the experience gained, the reputation of a reliable partner in the civil sector and donor organizations, and the strengthening of human and institutional capacity have now taken the organization to a new stage of development.

In 2021, based on our many years of experience and updated strategic vision, we have carried out a complete rebranding of the organization and present this report on behalf of "The Institute for Change and Innovation".

Our new name was not chosen at random. With more than 50 projects supported by donor organizations, more than 10,000 beneficiaries, four subsidiaries, and three social enterprises, we have really contributed to significant innovations and changes in the region, as this brief report will illustrate.

We would like to thank every person who has been a member of the organization team at various stages. You have strengthened our organization.

We would like to express our gratitude to each beneficiary of our organization. You are the wealth of our country and bring us closer to the needs of community. You connect with the people who need our support the most.

We thank all the organizations with which we have cooperated. You have assured us several times that more can be achieved together.

Finally, special thanks to all the donor organizations who enabled us to give wings to our ideas. Without your support, our organization would never have been able to make changes and innovations for the welfare of the community.

There are many more challenges ahead and we believe that with renewed energy, a strong team, and a reliable network of partners we will achieve more positive changes.

Síncerely,



Zviad Eradze, Chairman / Founder



Tamar Ghlonti, CEO / Founder

MISSION, VISION, DIRECTIONS OF THE ACTIVITY

Our mission:

People and organizations in Georgia have development opportunity to make positive changes for social and economic well-being of the country.

To achieve this, the organization implements programs and projects for individuals and legal entities with innovative approaches, transparency, accountability, equal opportunities and participatory principles in Georgia and abroad.

Strategic directions for 2021-2024:

In the next four years the organization directions will be:

- Education
- Good governance
- Youth development
- Green economy
- Social innovations
- Women empowerment

Our vision:

In Georgia there is an environment where all people have equal opportunities for development, social-economic prosperity and self-realization.

Activities of the organization:

- Implementation of projects and programs
- Short-term and long-term formal and non-formal education programs
- sub-grant award and management
- Intermediary services for employment
- Advocacy and lobbying
- Establishment and management of social enterprises
- Consulting services

Key Facts about the organization (2002-2021):

- Up to 12000 people were involved in educational awareness activities (including Forum Theater performances)
- Up to 2000 community / volunteer initiatives implemented (including advocacy campaigns)
- Amount of sub-grants issued (in EUR) 350 000
- Number of established social enterprises – 3
- Subsidiary organizations 3

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

A Lucky Initiative: Satellite Internet Center in Ozurgeti

The organization's first project "Establishment of the Satellite Internet Center in Ozurgeti" was implemented in 2002 with the support of American Online (AOL) and the Peace Corps (Peace Pack). At that time, it was the first internet center opened in Ozurgeti among the regions of Georgia.

Under the framework of the project, on the basis of our organization, former "Guria Youth Resource Center", personal computer training courses and an Internet Center were launched. Through it, many young people had the opportunity to study abroad and participate in various exchange programs.

More than 250 young people participated in the personal computer training courses offered by the project, and up to 300 local residents benefited from the services of the Internet Center.

Together with the organization team, American Peace Corps volunteers were involved in the project. In this project, our partner was local civil society organization, "the Progress House" (former the Ozurgeti Young Scientists Club).

The First Successful Partnership

The partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was a milestone for the "Guria Youth Resource Center", in the framework of which the component of children's rights awareness raising and youth civic engagement was introduced in the organization.

The projects - "Youth Participation and Development", "Children should know their rights" (mobile trailer for children's rights in Guria) facilitated the establishment of an informal association of young leaders in the organization and created the foundation for education and activation of children in Guria region.

In total, more than 500 people were involved in both initiatives, and mobile trailer traveled all over Guria. A group of young leaders launched about 100 interesting volunteer initiatives and published a series of periodicals - "Participation and Development" and "Our Newspaper for You".





"We Partner to Make the World Fit for Children"

In 2006-2008, the Guria Youth Resource Center, with the financial support of the European Union, as a leading organization, launched a largescale project to spread child rights education, promotion and sectoral cooperation - " We Partner to Make the World Fit for Children " in the Guria region.

During the project, educational sessions were held on the Convention on the Rights of a Child, rights-based approach and the art of debate with the attendance of more than 120



people. Peer education and inter-generational partnership programs were implemented with the engagement of 70 participants from different generations. Community initiatives and child rights campaigns were implemented, involving more than 300 people. Three documentaries on the child rights have been issued, which were seen by more than 1000 people. Creative competitions and debate tournaments were held. A wall calendar and a child rights book for elementary school students were published. Three different performances of the Forum Theater on the topic of children's rights were prepared, which were seen by up to 1000 people.

Civic Education Programs

Guria Youth Resource Center partnered with PH International from 2010 to 2021 to implement civic education programs supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

These projects successfully achieved the goal and contributed toward the improvement of the quality of civic education in 11 regions of Georgia, including 38 schools in the Guria region. As a result of the implementation of the programs, the educational resources have been created



for civic education, the teachers' professional knowledge was enhanced and the students

actively participated in the civic processes by implementing school initiatives focused on meeting the community needs.

During these years, about 50 civic clubs were established in the Guria region, which implemented more than 1000 school initiatives. More than 300 training sessions were conducted for members of the School Civic Club and teachers. In collaboration with various structures, the youth implemented more than 200 initiatives; Up to 100 small grants were awarded, within the framework of which various types of schoolcommunity issues were solved: the school library was arranged, outdoor sports spaces and Greenhouses were arranged.

Members of The School Civic Club established in the region hosted more than 300 invited guests, made more than 100 visits to various institutions, more than 100 adolescents did internships based on their interests, and 200 children participated in civic education camps. The program identified the best teachers of the year, successful teachers of civic education, the best supporting teachers of school civic clubs. Successful civic clubs and teachers were awarded as part of the club equipment award competition.

The English Access Micro-scholarship Program (Access Program)

English Access Micro-scholarship Program (Access Program) has been implemented by PH International (Branch of Project "Harmony" in Georgia) under the support of US Embassy Georgia. The Institute for Change and Innovation (former Guria Youth Resource Center) is the implementing partner of the program in Ozurgeti.

The purpose of the English Access

Microscholarship Program (Access Program) is to make the study of English more accessible to adolescents aged 13-16 from economically disadvantaged background. While working on their language skills, the participants become familiar with aspects of US culture, their customs and develop leadership skills.

The two-year program includes 4 semesters of teaching (420 hours). Each year in July, students



have a one-week summer camp. At the end of the two-year program, graduates will be presented with certificates signed by the US Ambassador.

Since 2011, our organization has hosted four program groups with a total of more than 100 students. In 2021, three students of the program, Ketato Surguladze, Lizi Dolidze and Giorgi Beltadze, became the finalist of the Access Exchange Program and will go to a three-week summer school in California, USA in the summer.

"Making our communities into better places to live"

In 2005-2006, the Guria Youth Resource Center implemented a project funded by the European Union - "Making communities into better places to live." The aim of the project was to promote the active participation of young people in community development and local decisionmaking processes, as well as to increase the accountability and transparency of government bodies through the involvement of young people. The project covered 9 villages of Guria region: three villages in Ozurgeti, Chokhatauri and Lanchkhuti municipalities. In the selected villages we identified a group of young people: 20 young people aged 18-30. Offices were established. As part of the project, meetings were held with local government officials and village residents. Approximately 180 young people and local government representatives were trained in the following areas in the project target villages: Leadership and volunteering; Designing projects and rural development plans; Fundraising; Local budget, its implementation and monitoring; human rights.

Monthly reviews of local village budgets were conducted with the participation of local self-



government representatives and the rural population. In each village, youth groups conducted public opinion polls to raise public awareness of local self-government and rural priorities. The youth groups took an active part in the process of preparing the budget of each village and accordingly managed to take into account the priorities identified as a result of the research.

With the support of the project staff, each youth group prepared a rural development plan and project proposals. In order to raise public awareness, the organization published a periodical "Our Newspaper" and a quarterly TV program.

"Where Does My Money Go"

In 2010-2011, the Guria Youth Resource Center, with the support of the Europe Foundation, implemented a project - "Where does my money go?" The aim of the project was to actively involve Guria communities in the local decisionmaking process. As part of the project, groups of volunteer youth were created in the target communities. An educational program - "Local Budget and its monitoring" was implemented, in which more than 150 people participated. In addition, Forum Theater performances, "Where Does My Money Go" and "Awakening" were held, attended by more than 600 people.



Round tables were held with the participation of the government, the media, the non-

governmental sector and the public. Training - "Participatory Civic Monitoring" was conducted and 5 models of civil monitoring were developed. Recommendations were prepared to reflect the needs of the population in the local budget. The project contributed to increasing citizen participation in the decision-making process, the introduction of civic monitoring practices and civic initiatives, as well as improving the accountability of government bodies and strengthening the community as a controlling power.

List of Projects Implemented in the field of education and youth development

- American Online, Peace Corps "Establishment of Satellite Internet Center in Ozurgeti" -September 2002 - August 2004
- Unicef Youth Participation and Development January 2002 May, 2003
- Unicef "Children Should know their rights" June 2003 December 2003
- World Bank, GEF ICZM "Wetlands in Danger" January-April 2004
- Democracy Commission Small Grants Program, Embassy of the United States of America in Georgia "Democracy Must be Learn by Each Generation" September 2004-May 2005
- Europe Foundation "I know I can make a difference" November 2004-November 2005
- Peace Corps Small Grants Program "Raising Future Professionals" March May 2005
- Peace Corps Partnership Grant (PCPP) "Raising Future Professionals II" September 2005-August 2006
- European Union- "Making Our Communities Into a Better places to live" April 2005 May, 2006
- CARE Georgia (Atlanta Health Trust Fund CARE USA / USAID) "Adolescents Health Program in Guria GAP)" October 2004- April 2007
- World Bank Youth Program "There are so many things to do" June November 2008
- European Union "We partner to make the world fit for Children" October 2006 September 2008
- US Embassy Alumni Grant Program in Georgia "What Can I Do for My Community" -September-December 2009
- Europe Foundation- "Where Does My Money Go" September 2009-June 2010
- Peace Corps Small Grants Computer Technology for Change August-January 2011
- US Embassy Alumni Grants Program Young Volunteers for Social Change September 2010-January 2011

- PH International, USAID Civic Education and Teacher Training Program (ACETT) 2010-2013
- PH International, USAID Civic Education Program "Future Generation" 2014-2018
- PH International, USAID Civic Education Program "Future Generation II" 2018-2021
- PH International, US Embassy in Georgia English Access Micro-Scholarship Program (ACCESS)
 2010-2021
- People in Need "Young Advocates for Social Change" November 2012-May 2013
- Peace Corps Small Grants Program "Volunteering for the Future" September-December 2012
- Small Grants Program of the Swiss Embassy in Georgia "My Community Votes for Women" -February - June 2014
- Peace Corps Small Grants Program "Sustainability through English" June October 2014
- Robert Bosch Foundation, Black Sea Trust Fund "Art for Peace and Reconciliation" -September 2017 - June 2018
- Democracy Commission Small Grants Program "Get kids moving" September 2014 August 2015
- US Department of State International Bureau of Anti-drug and Law Enforcement / PH International Public Engagement and Partnership for Legal Education Program (GE CALLS) -"Films for Dialogue" - 2014

EMPLOYMENT, PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Supporting re-integration and development of conditionally sentenced juvenile and youth

In 2013-2014, the Guria Youth Resource Center, with the financial support of the European Union and in Partnership with the Democratic Development Union, implemented the project entitled - "Supporting re-integration and development of conditionally sentenced juvenile and youth"

The main purpose of the project was to improve well-being of youth on probation support their reintegration and development.

A cycle of seminars was held within the project. Group or individual meetings were organized with more than 30 probationers. Through the project, 25 participants developed professional skills for further employment, 30 beneficiaries mastered computer technologies in the project.

A social enterprise working in the field of publishing and printing was opened and financed to promote re socialization of probationers.



The largest component of the project was the sub-grant program. Up to 60,000 euros was issued to the beneficiaries to support their social economic well being. Up to 30 participants attended small business management course. Totally 12 people were employed in the field of agriculture.

The project significantly contributed to the psycho-social rehabilitation, professional development and employment of probationers. Forum theater was an integral part of awareness raising and education of general public.

"Keeping Them Here: Education, Income Generation and Business opportunities for potential migrants from Georgia"

In 2015-2017, the Guria Youth Resource Center, with the support of the European Union, implemented the project entitled "Keeping Them Here: Education, Income Generation and Business opportunities for potential migrants from Georgia".

The aim of the project was to support the reduction of migration from Georgia, to

develop effective strategies for creating a livelihood for potential and returned migrants. The implementation area included all three municipalities of Guria and Kobuleti municipality of Adjara region. The project was implemented in partnership with the German Association of Public Universities (DVV International) and the Ozurgeti Young Scientists Club.

Within the framework of the project, 61 participants passed jobs skills training program; 34 people participated in a personal computer



training course; 77 people joined the vocational educational program. Under the Small Grants Program, 10 business ideas were selected through a competition and funded with up to GEL 5,000. Three day training sessions were conducted for the selected businesses on business management and planning topics.

In addition to this, 80 representatives of local government (village attorneys and MPs) were



trained on visa liberalization, illegal migration, migration trends and trafficking. Prepared a Forum Theater performance on the topic of migration and trafficking, which traveled in 28 territorial units throughout Guria and Adjara regions. About 1000 people attended the performance. Brochures and posters were published on illegal migration and trafficking, as well as visa liberalization.

Modernization of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Extension System Related to Agriculture in Georgia - Phase 2"

With the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in September 2020, the Institute for Change and Innovation launched a new project - Modernization of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Extension System Related to Agriculture in Georgia - Phase 2". It aims to promote the development and operation of agricultural extension and consulting systems in the Guria region, as well as to strengthen Piblic Private Partnership (PPP).

The direct beneficiaries of the project are agricultural extension service providers



(regional and municipal services), while the final beneficiaries of the project are farmers living in Guria region.

The implementation period of the initiative is 16 months and its financial support was provided by the United Nations Development Program with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



Skills for employment and cooperation – Tailoring Opportunities for the Regions of Georgia (SECTORs)

"Skills for Employment and Cooperation – Tailoring Opportunities for the Regions of Georgia (SECTORs)" is an Euopean Union funded project implemented by The Institute for Change and Innovation in partnership with the Georgian Farmers' Association, the Institute for Democracy and the "Atinati" Association.

The project aims to improve the employment

opportunities of vulnerable groups in the community through encouraging partnership between various sectors, offering entrepreneurship education and introducing innovative approaches to contribute to the economic growth of the project target regions.

The target regions of the project are: Guria, Adjara, Samegrelo.

The project will work in three areas: 1) Implementing knowledge, skills and capacity building programs for project target vulnerable group members, local business representatives and consulting organizations; 2) Creating employment opportunities in the local economy sector by strengthening existing businesses and financing start-ups; 3) Standardizing the necessary skills and best practices by strengthening the business clusters established within the project and introducing innovative approaches.

List of projects Implemented in the field of Employment, Professional growth and Rural Development

- European Union Supporting re-integration and development of conditionally sentenced juvenile and youth- 2013-2014
- National Agency for Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation "Training Services in Support of Integration and Crime Prevention in Guria" 2013
- Peace Corps Small Grant "Integration of Youth with Disabilities in Guria Youth Resource Center Programs" – 2015
- European Union "Keeping Them Here: Education, Income Generation and Business opportunities for potential migrants from Georgia"- 2015-2017
- European Union "Former Inmates, Probationers and Their Families" (Implementing Organization "Institute for Democracy" The Institute for Change and Innovation was a partner in the Guria region)
- Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Center for Crime Prevention "Increasing the economic opportunities of ex-convicts" 2015-2016
- UNDP SDC Modernization of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Extension System Related to Agriculture in Georgia - Phase 2"September 2020 - Ongoing
- European Union "Skills for Employment and Cooperation Tailoring Opportunities for the Regions of Georgia (SECTORs)" September 2020 Ongoing

GOOD GOVERNANCE

"Govern from Home"

In 2015-2016, in partnership with the Ozurgeti Municipality Assembly and with the financial support of the Europe Foundation, an innovative mechanism for citizen involvement in the implementation of local government was introduced - live-broadcasting of Ozurgeti Municipality Assembly sessions.

An online streaming tool was created, which was posted on the website of the Ozurgeti Municipality Council. Directly within the project, 50 sessions of the City Assembly were delivered through the online broadcasting program. Ozurgeti Municipality Assembly is still actively using this tool.



Under the same project, youth groups conducted more than 30 online advocacy campaigns and undertook participatory civic monitoring. It should be noted that, according to the Action Plans of the Open Government Partnership for 2016-2017 and 2018-2019, the use of this mechanism is part of the obligation of the state.



Civic Engagement Centers in the rural areas

"Introduction of Innovative Mechanisms for Effective Governance and Citizen Involvement in Ozurgeti Municipality" - this is the name of the project, within the framework of which "Guria Youth Resource Center" established civic Engagement Centers in five territorial units of Ozurgeti Municipality in 2016.

The Civic Engagement Centers were equipped with TVs, microphones and webcams to enable local public to follow the live broadcast of council sessions on the spot, without leaving the village. Ozurgeti Municipality Assembly hall was equipped with a TV, which enabled all five rural public engagement centers to participate in Assembly sessions.

As part of the project, 20 members of the City Council deepened their knowledge on online public opinion survey tools. In addition, the survey was integrated into the web-site of Ozurgeti Municipality government.

The project was funded by the Regional and Local Development Promotion in Georgia (RLD) program implemented by the United Nations Development Program The program (UNPD) is funded by the Swiss Cooperation Office in the South Caucasus (SIO) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADC). It should also be noted that the use of this mechanism in the Open Government Partnership Action Plans for 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 is part of the state's obligation.

An Online tool for participatory budgeting

In 2018-2019, Guria Youth Resource Center, with the financial support of NDI, implemented a project - "Initiative for Increasing Citizen Participation in the Local Self-Government Implementation Process".

Within the project, an electronic tool / platform for participatory budgeting was developed (http://votes.ozurgeti.ge/). The City Hall of Ozurgeti Municipality allocated 150,000 GEL to finance the projects selected through the abovementioned mechanism in Ozurgeti City.

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This is the first precedent among the regions of Georgia, when the municipality has allocated the budget for participatory budgeting executed through the electronic platform. We have no analogue of the mentioned platform in Georgia. The mechanism is still working successfully: An adult registered in the administrative unit, an authorized representative of a group or nonentrepreneurial legal entities are eligible to submit the projects to the portal.



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პირდაპირი ღემოკრატიის პრინციპებზე დაფუძნებული მონაწილეობითი ბიუჯეტირების ფორმა. რომელსაც ქალაქ ოზურგეთის აღმინისტრაციულ საზღვრებში ახორციელებს ოზურგეთის შუნიციალიტეტი! ეს არის მოქალაქეების შესაძლებლობა - ინიციატივების წარმოდგენით განსაზღვრონ პრიორიტეტული პროექტები და მიიღონ გალაწყვეტილება ამ პროექტების დასაფინანსებლად.

პროექტის ნარდგენა



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The list of projects implemented in the field of good governance

- Europe Foundation "Govern from Home" July 2015-December 2017
- UNDP SGS "Innovative Mechanisms for Citizen Engagement" December 2015 March 2018
- USAID "Petition People's Voice in the Local Government" (Implementing Organization

 Institute for Democracy, Guria Youth Resource Center was a partner in the Guria region) -March 2016-April 2018
- NDI "Initiative for increasing citizen participation in the implementation of local selfgovernment" - October 2018 - February 2019
- European Union "Implementation public-oriented local governance in Poti and Abasha municipalities" (Applicant Poti Municipality, co-applicants: Abasha Municipality, The Institute for Change and Innovations Former Guria Youth Resource Center, Student-Youth Council) January 20, 2012 present
- NDI "Active Citizens for a Better Environment" (Project Partners: Environmental Community Organization - ECO, Democratic Development Union of Georgia) - September 2019 - February 2020
- Europe Foundation "Creating an Innovative Model of Community General Meeting with Active Youth Engagement in Ozurgeti Municipality" - November 2019 - September 2020

SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

The Institute for Change and Innovations (former the Guria Youth Resource Center) has established three subsidiary organization contributing to professional development and business activities of people in Guria region.



English Academy

The English Academy, as a non-entrepreneurial legal entity, was established by the Guria Youth Resource Center in September 2016 with the aim of providing high quality educational services to the local community.

The current programs of the Academy are:

- Children's Studio "ABC";
- General English courses;
- English language "School Plus";
- English for University entrants;
- Business English;
- Academic writing course;

More than 100 beneficiaries attend the academy courses every year.



Chokhatauri Adult Education Center

Chokhatauri Adult Education Center was established in December 2015 by the Georgian Office of the German Association of Public Universities (DVV International) and the Guria Youth Resource Center. The center aims to promote adult lifelong learning by creating access to educational services for Chokhatauri community. The center offers personal growth and vocational programs tailored to the educational needs of individuals, as well as the social enterprise "Craft Studio"

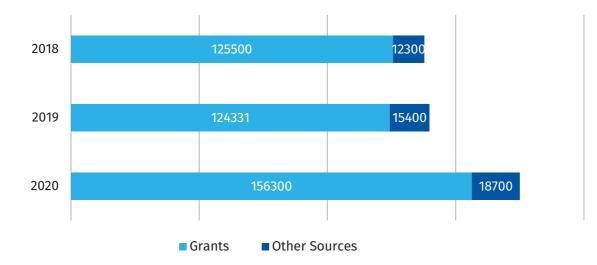
Social Enterprise "Ecopoligraph Guria"

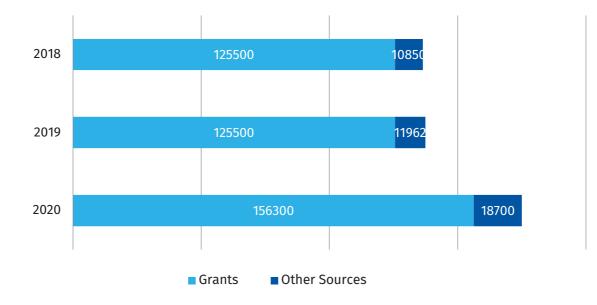
Social Enterprise "Ecopoligraph Guria" - was established with the financial support of the European Union, which unites three enterprises under its umbrella "Publishing House", "Paper bag Production Enterprise" and "Laser Engraving Workshop".

The enterprise periodically employs former prisoners and family members of prisoners.



FINANCIAL REPORT





DONOR ORGANIZATIONS

On behalf of the Institute of Change and Innovations we would like to express a deep gratitude to the donor organizations have been supporting the organization initiatives and projects since 2002 until present. If not their generous assistance, we would not be able to make positive changes in innovative ways for the benefit of our constituents.

Our donors since 2002 till present:

- American Online, Peace Pack
- Peace Corps Small Grants Program
- Peace Corps Georgia
- Peace Corps Partnership Grant (PCPP)
- United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- European Union
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- World Bank Representation in Georgia
- Embassy of the United States of America in Georgia, Democracy Comission Small Grants' Program; Alumni Grant Program
- Europe Foundation
- CARE Georgia
- British Embassy in Georgia
- PH International
- DVV International
- People in Need
- The Swiss Embassy in Georgia
- Robert Bosch Foundation, Black Sea Trust Fund
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- Internews
- Partners Global