



Strasbourg, 1 October 2019

## Council of Europe youth policy advisory mission to Georgia 24-26 September 2019

### Programme

#### **Background**

The national authorities of Georgia have invited the Council of Europe to advise the authorities responsible for youth issues on the development of a participatory youth policy, in line with Council of Europe standards.

This mission is being organised at a time of change in the authorities responsible for youth policy in the country. Responsibility has been transferred to a new Youth Agency set up directly under the Prime Minister's office from the Youth Policy Management Department in the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia. In addition, Georgia will hold the chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers from 27 November 2019 to May 2020 and youth issues will be amongst the priorities. Finally, the Council of Europe will launch a new action plan for the country for 2020-2023 that aims to bring Georgia's legislation, institutions and practice further into line with European standards in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy, thereby supporting the country's efforts to honour its obligations as a Council of Europe member state. This youth policy advisory mission is part of the preparations for the section on "promoting participation and diversity, youth for democracy".

The youth policy advisory mission is organised under the aegis of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and is part of the package of [intergovernmental assistance measures to member states](#) in the field of youth proposed by the Council of Europe. A team of international experts has been recruited comprising a member of the [European Steering Committee for Youth](#) (CDEJ), a member of the [Advisory Council on Youth](#) (CCJ), a representative of the [European Youth Forum](#) (YFJ), an expert in participatory youth policy who is also rapporteur, as well as a representative of the Council of Europe secretariat. The team will provide targeted expertise and advice to the requesting authorities.

#### **Overall aims of the youth policy advisory mission**

The current national youth policy of Georgia dates from 2014 and the Youth Agency would like to revise this document to take into account recent changes in the country to align it better with current and emerging priorities and challenges in light of the SDG 2030 Agenda. In addition, long-standing challenges, including youth unemployment, gender inequality and a low level of youth engagement, remain serious impediments to youth development. In order to meet the aspirations of young people in the country and enable them to make their full contribution to national development, innovative, participatory and evidence-based approaches to youth policy are required.

The overall **aims** of this advisory mission are to provide advice to and prepare **recommendations** for the Youth Agency on the development of a participatory youth policy for Georgia based on the Council of Europe's norms and standards, engaging young people and their organisations in its definition, delivery and evaluation.<sup>1</sup> The policy should also allow for young people's meaningful participation and be sustainable. A report summarising the Council of Europe team's recommendations will be addressed to the authorities after the advisory mission.

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<sup>1</sup> For the Council of Europe, youth policy should aim to provide "young people with the opportunities and experiences that support their successful integration into society and enables them to be active and responsible members of their societies, as well as agents of change" ([Recommendation CM/Rec\(2015\)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights](#)).

## **Objectives**

The **objectives** of the youth policy advisory mission are to:

- clarify with the authorities and key stakeholders expectations for a participatory youth policy, especially at local/regional levels, and get an overview of their roles in designing, implementing and monitoring the new youth policy;
- identify challenges experienced with the current youth policy and to developing a new one at local/regional and national levels;
- examine how to improve youth participation in national youth policy, notably based on Council of Europe standards.

The key reference document for this mission is the Council of Europe [self-assessment tool for youth policy](#) which can usefully inform the discussions. The tool is also available online in [Georgian](#).

The key stakeholders from the authorities are:

- Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Protection;
- Ministry of Economy and Sustainable development;
- Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure;
- Local authorities.

Other stakeholders include:

- National Council of Youth Organisations of Georgia (NCYOG);
- Other youth organisations;
- Organisation “Sector 3”;
- Local experts;
- Representatives of UN agencies (UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF);
- Delegation of the European Union to Georgia;
- World Vision Georgia;
- Save the Children;
- Red Cross Georgia;
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC);
- USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia.

## **The Council of Europe’s team of experts**

The delegation is as follows:

- Matej Manevski, CCJ, chair of the Programming Committee on Youth;
- Zdenka Maskova, CDEJ Bureau member;
- Liva Vikmane, European Youth Forum (YFJ);
- Anne Crowley, expert/rapporteur;
- Joanne Hunting, Youth Department, Council of Europe – head of delegation.

The working language of the meeting will be **English**.

### **Contacts:**

#### **In the Council of Europe**

Joanne Hunting  
Programme manager  
+33 3 88 40 30 61  
[joanne.hunting@coe.int](mailto:joanne.hunting@coe.int)

#### **In the Youth Agency**

Kristine Kapenadze  
Deputy Head of the Youth Agency  
Tel : +995 555 605 606  
[kristina.kapanadze@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.kapanadze@gmail.com)

Kartlos Karumidze  
[kkarumidze@mes.gov.ge](mailto:kkarumidze@mes.gov.ge)

## Draft programme

### Monday 23 September 2019

Arrival of the team at Tbilisi International Airport

### Tuesday 24 September 2019

09.30-11.00

#### **Opening, welcome and objectives**

Facilitator: Nato Antia

#### **Welcome address from the Georgian authorities**

**Revaz Charkviani**, Head of the Youth Agency

#### **Introduction of participants**

#### **The youth policy advisory mission: objectives and expectations**

The objectives of this mission and expectations

The Council of Europe support programme to member states and youth policy standards

**Joanne Hunting**, Youth Policy Division, Council of Europe

*Coffee break*

11.20-13.00

#### **Youth policy and youth participation in Georgia**

Some questions to guide the discussions:

- What is a participatory youth policy?
- How to establish a process of genuine dialogue and empower young people to play an active role in the definition of the youth policy?
- How to promote youth participation and ensure the structures are meaningful and not tokenistic?
- Who are the main stakeholders in developing a participatory youth policy?
- How to ensure decision makers and policy makers implement the youth policy?

13.00-14.30

*Lunch*

14.30-17.00

#### **Youth policy and youth participation in Georgia (cont)**

*Coffee break*

17.00-17.30

#### **Preliminary conclusions from the first day**

By the Youth Agency

17.30-18.30

#### **Overview of the political and social situation in Georgia**

**Vahag Muradyan**, Deputy Head of the Council of Europe Office in Tbilisi

18.30-19.30

Meeting of the members of the Council of Europe delegation

### Wednesday 25 September 2019

09.00-15.30

#### **Youth policy and participation in practice at the local level**

Meetings with decision makers and people responsible for the development of youth issues to see how local self-governments are supporting youth participation and the mechanisms in place at local level.

- 09.00-10.30 Meeting with:
- **Irakli Gvilava**, Head of Tbilisi City Municipal Department of Culture, Education, Sport and Youth Affairs;
  - **Zaza Tsinadze**, Deputy Head of Tbilisi City Municipal Department of Culture, Education, Sport and Youth Affairs;
  - **Gogi Chikovani**, Head of Education and Youth Affairs Division at Tbilisi City Municipal Department of Culture, Education, Sport and Youth Affairs;
  - **Kakha Abuladze**, Director of Tbilisi Youth Center Unions.
  - **Giorgi Chakvetadze**, Chairperson of Sports and Youth Affairs Commission at Tbilisi City Municipal Assembly.
- 10.30-11.30 Departure to Rustavi (~30km)
- 11.30-12.30 Meeting with:
- **Nino Kavtaradze**, Vice-Chair of Rustavi City Assembly;
  - **Gegi Liparteliani**, Head of Culture Youth and Sport Development Center of Rustavi.
- 12.30-13.45 *Lunch*
- 13.45-14.00 Transfer to American Corner Rustavi
- 14.00-15.30** Meeting with representatives of:
- Rustavi local NGOs;
  - Local Youth Council;
  - Local American Corner
- 15.30-16.30 Transfer to the Parliament of Georgia
- 16.30-18.00 Meeting with representatives of the Sports and Youth Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia**
- **Mikheil Kavelashvili**, Chairperson of the Sports and Youth Issues Committee;
  - **Irina Pruidze**, Member of the Sports and Youth Issues Committee;
  - **Genadi Margvelashvili**, Member of the Sports and Youth Issues Committee.

#### Thursday 26 September 2019

- 09.00-10.00 Meeting of the Council of Europe delegation**
- Discussion on the findings and initial thoughts
- 10.00-13.00 Exchange of views between the Council of Europe delegation and the Head of the Youth Agency**
- Feedback from the advisory mission, preliminary recommendations, next steps
- 13.00-14.30 *Lunch*
- 14.30-17.00 Meeting of the Council of Europe delegation**
- Report, recommendations, next steps
- 19.30 Gala dinner**