

Project “Human rights-compliant policing in Georgia” (2021-2023), implemented by the Council of Europe Office in Tbilisi

CONCEPT NOTE on

Information campaign for Civil Society Organisations on their role in protecting human rights during of demonstrations

The Council of Europe project on human-rights compliant policing in Georgia is launching a campaign involving civil society in assisting police authorities protect and safeguard human rights in the context of public gatherings and demonstrations.

Aim: The aim of the campaign is to:

- Empower Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) by providing information about their rights and ways to promote peaceful public gatherings;
- Raise awareness of CSOs of human rights standards in policing;
- Create a dialogue between the police and CSOs.

Format of the Campaign: the campaign will be implemented in three steps:

1. Informative workshop/s for CSOs
2. Awareness raising actions by 2 selected CSOs
3. Enhancing the civil society dialogue with the police

STEP 1. Informative workshop for civil society organisations

The project will pre-select up to 20 NGOs representing up to 10 targeted regions of Georgia: Kvemo Kartli, Shida Kartli, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Imereti, Racha, Guria, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Adjara. For this purpose, call for expression of interest will be published.

As a result from this process, up to two representatives from each of the pre-selected NGOs, namely up to 40 persons in total, are expected to participate in a 4-day workshop, at which they will be trained on the relevant topics, including the following:

1. The right to peaceful assembly, the right to life and other relevant rights of people involved in demonstrations as stated in international conventions and national legislation;
2. Human rights standards for police conduct and methods during demonstrations;
3. Prevention of violence and de-escalation techniques for people involved in violent public gatherings;
4. Role of CSOs in creating constructive dialogue with police in preparing public gatherings and assessing results of assemblies;
5. Knowledge and skills on conducting public campaigns and awareness-raising activities, including communication.

The informative workshop will be organised and implemented directly by the CoE project, in line with the following tentative schedule:

- Workshop 1 (group 1, for up to 20 participants) – 8-11 November 2022 in Adjara
- Workshop 2 (group 2, for up to 20 participants) – 15-18 November 2022 in Kakheti

For this purpose, the CoE project plans to hire consultants from its pool of consultants to prepare and deliver the training sessions.

STEP 2. Awareness raising actions by CSOs

Once step 1 has been completed, the CSOs that have attended the workshop will be invited to submit more detailed application under the grant scheme, enabling them to carry out an information campaign on the protection of human rights during demonstrations in the regions of Georgia, based on the knowledge and skills they gained from the training sessions they attended.

On the basis of the received detailed proposal under Step 2, up to two CSOs will be selected to implement awareness raising actions in up to 10 regions of Georgia. The two selected CSOs will sign grant agreements with the Council of Europe, up to 9.000 EUR each (direct award procedure).

Flyers, posters and other campaign specific visibility material will be printed and delivered to the two selected CSOs in close coordination with the project team and in line with Council of Europe visibility standards. Other visibility actions, including multimedia products shall be produced in close coordination with the project team, and with respect to the Council of Europe visual identity and guidelines.

The selected CSOs will be responsible to plan and implement the campaign mainly by organising meetings in the regions to transfer the knowledge they received to other CSOs, peer organisations and other relevant stakeholders and actors and citizens. The selected CSOs will facilitate and lead the meetings, prepare relevant documents and disseminate the visibility items. The CoE project will observe and monitor the process of planning and implementation of the meetings. The project HRCPG will also supervise the provision of services offered by the service provider/s, which include catering, the selection of the venues for the meetings, organising the transportation when needed, printing and delivery of the visibility material and other relevant logistical issues, necessary for the successful implementation of the campaign.

The two CSOs may be invited in due course to participate in the Steering Committee meeting of the project to report on progress and results of the meetings.

STEP 3. Dialogue with the police

With the project's support, the CSOs will be invited for further dialogue with local police offices and regional law-enforcement authorities, and local CSOs including youth to discuss the impact of the campaign and recommendations to ensure the effective protection of human rights during demonstrations.

The project will organise 2 round table meetings with civil society and the managers of the Ministry of Internal affairs and high-ranking police officers to collect their feedback on the campaign. The first meeting can be organised within 2 months period, after the implementation of the awareness raising meetings in the regions. The second meeting shall be organised after 4 to 6 months period to collect relevant feedback on the outcomes and the impact of the campaign.