

Management Response and Action Plan Final Evaluation Report of VC2767

Name of Evaluation Report:	Final Evaluation Report of the Council of Europe project "Democracy Starts in Schools – Engaging School Children in Decision Making Processes in Schools and Communities in Georgia"		
Date of Evaluation Report:	05/02/2024	Date of Action Plan:	21/022024

Overall management response to the evaluation:

The final evaluation has been carried out in line with the evaluation policy of the Council of Europe. The evaluators employed a comprehensive evaluation methodology, which included desk research, focus groups, in-depth interviews and a survey. The evaluators took into consideration the fact that the Council of Europe is implementing a follow up project and provided recommendations and lessons learned for the second phase. Some recommendations are generally pertinent and will be taken on board fully or partially within the follow up project to the extent possible, however, some recommendations are too ambitious and go beyond the scope of both our project and control. It is also to be noted that the final evaluation report was received by us after we had developed and submitted to the donor the follow up project proposal.

[FOR DECENTRALISED EVALUATIONS] Dissemination plan for the evaluation: please briefly explain how the report will be shared (internally, other CoE entities, donors, beneficiaries etc.), methods (email, events, website etc.), resources, timeframe and person responsible.

The report will be disseminated internally by e-mail within the Education Department, including with other education cooperation projects. The report will also be shared by e-mail and/or within a technical coordination meeting with the donor. The report will also be published on the project website.

Management Decision ¹	Entity in Charge	Planned Actions ² (determined by Entity)	Justification ³ for Non-Acceptance	Target Date for Action	Person Responsible for Action
Recommendation 1: Implement consolidation measures for the (school) network to transform it in a sustainable knowledge-sharing platform. Sustain and expand school engagement.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Partially accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Division for Formal and Non-formal Education, Education Department; the project team	The follow up project will further support the development and expansion of the Education for Democracy Schools Network as a key platform for peer exchange and peer support for the participating schools and the wider Georgian education community.		December 2027	Margareta Platon, Tamunia Chincharauli
Recommendation 2: As the resources and logistics allow it, organize smaller groups during training sessions for a more effective and interactive learning experience.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Partially accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Division for Formal and Non-formal Education, Education Department; the project team	All capacity building activities will aim to include sessions with smaller groups with the trainees, including at the supported schools.		December 2027	Margareta Platon, Tamunia Chincharauli
Recommendation 3: Enhance facilitator resources by implementing focused training programs and skill development initiatives specifically tailored for former trainees.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Partially accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Division for Formal and Non-formal Education, Education	The follow up project will build on the national capacities that were built within the Phase I project, including the		December 2027	Margareta Platon, Tamunia Chincharauli

¹ The management decision is in relation to the Recommendation (Accepted, Partially accepted, Rejected).

² For implementing accepted recommendations.

³ For recommendations that are partially accepted or rejected.

Management Decision ¹	Entity in Charge	Planned Actions ² (determined by Entity)	Justification ³ for Non-Acceptance	Target Date for Action	Person Responsible for Action
	Department; the project team	experience of national experts who acted as facilitators in pilot schools. At the same, given that the new project will support more schools, the project will seek to identify and train new national experts who can support the project activities. The capacity building programmes for the facilitators will be tailored to their needs			
Recommendation 4: Increase the number of facilitators that act as mobile outreach teams. Set up distance learning and resource centers (in the Education Resource Centers) in accessible locations.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Division for Formal and Non-formal Education, Education Department; the project team	We will aim to increase the number of national experts who are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to support the schools, including on-site, but that will also depend on whether a sufficient number of qualified candidates apply to our tender for national consultants. The project does not plan to set up any hubs at Education Resource Centres as these would be beyond the scope of the current project.		December 2027	Margareta Platon, Tamunia Chincharauli
Recommendation 5: Implement tailored capacity building programs for school board members, focusing on their crucial role in decision making processes.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially accepted	Division for Formal and Non-formal	Members of school boards will be involved in the capacity building and		December 2027	Margareta Platon, Tamunia Chincharauli

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<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Education, Education Department; the project team	other support activities that will be carried out in the 60 schools for the main school stakeholders.			
Recommendation 6: Design the baseline assessment and final evaluation to gather the same data while mitigating response biases from previous assessments					
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Division for Formal and Non-formal Education, Education Department; the project team	The Phase II project will carry out an in depth gap analysis which will serve as a baseline for the project. The project does not plan to carry out another assessment at the end of the project, however, the project will institute a thorough monitoring and evaluation system that will ensure continuous collection of data and its analysis compared with the baseline data.		December 2027	Margareta Platon, Tamunia Chincharauli
Recommendation 7: Increasing the number of participants from each school in the Summer Academy. Setup follow-up activities after the summer school (conference, workshop etc.)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Partially accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Division for Formal and Non-formal Education, Education Department; the project team	We have not envisaged to organise summer academies for school children in Phase II project. However, we will sub-grant two civil society organisations who will carry out non-formal education activities for school children.			
Recommendation 8: Develop a strategic plan for a smooth transfer of responsibilities in the foreseeable future ensuring that the initiative aligns with the Georgian government's broader goals and policies.					

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<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Partially accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Division for Formal and Non-formal Education, Education Department; the project team	While the Phase II project will strive to contribute to on-going education reforms in Georgia and otherwise ensure the sustainability of the project results, we will not be aiming to transfer the activities carried out by the project to a Government institution as they require resources that the Government does not have.			
Recommendation 9: Keep school children connected even after they move on to university as much as possible.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Partially accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Division for Formal and Non-formal Education, Education Department; the project team	The focus of the project remains on current school children and processes in schools. It is possible that alumni associations will be supported as part of the non-formal education activities that will be carried out by sub-granted civil society organisations, but this will depend on the types of projects that will be submitted.			
Recommendation 10: For the follow-up of the project, prioritize the involved schools based on need and impact.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Division for Formal and Non-formal Education, Education Department; the project team	In Phase II project, we will support 60 schools to implement the democratic school governance. We will select the 60 schools jointly with the Ministry based on jointly developed criteria to		December 2027	Margareta Platon, Tamunia Chincharauli

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		<p>ensure that the schools are diverse (geographical location, large or small, Georgian or ethnic minorities, urban or rural, etc.), are representative of the Georgian schools and need our support. The possible impact will not be a key selection factor as we will work with a representative sample of schools, including small and remote ones, with fewer resources, where the impact of our support, even though tailored to needs, may not be as significant as in larger and urban schools.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 11: Provide training in areas like project management and resource mobilization, such as fundraising, that could lead to empowerment to initiate impactful projects.</p>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Partially accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Division for Formal and Non-formal Education, Education Department; the project team	This was the approach we took in Phase I project towards student projects and we will continue to apply it in the Phase II project: we will not support the schools financially, but rather build school children's skills and knowledge and create a supportive environment for their participation and initiatives.		December 2027	Margareta Platon, Tamunia Chincharauli