

Contents

National Concept	2
Introduction	2
Goals.....	3
Principles	3
Rule of Law	3
Objectives	4
Education and State Language	4
Objectives	4
Media and Access to Information.....	4
Objectives	4
Political Integration and Civil Participation.....	5
Objectives	5
Social and Regional Integration.....	5
Objectives	5
Culture and Preservation of Identity	5
Objectives	5
Action Plan	7
Education and State Language	7
Media and Access to Information.....	13
Political Integration and Civil Participation	16
Social and Regional Integration	18
Culture and Preservation of Identity.....	21

National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration

I. Introduction

The National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration and Action Plan were developed based on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ratified by Parliament of Georgia in 2005) and the Presidential decree №639 "On the development of the National Concept and Action Plan for Tolerance and Civil Integration" issued on August 8, 2005. Its main goal is to support the building of democratic and consolidated civil society that is based on common values, which considers diversity as a source of its strength and provides every citizen with the opportunity to maintain and develop his/her identity.

The National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration and Action Plan are based on the Constitution of Georgia and the country's international commitments. In order to ensure broad social consensus all interested parties were given opportunity to participate in the drafting process of the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration and the Action Plan. Draft document was developed by the Civil Integration and Tolerance Council functioning under President of Georgia, which consists of the members of Parliament, Public Defender, representatives of national minorities, non-Governmental organizations, Ministries, and other governmental bodies. Drafting process was accompanied by the ongoing consultation process with the National Minorities Council functioning under Public Defender. Civil Integration and Tolerance Council was also regularly facilitating meetings with the population of regions densely populated with national minorities and local non-Governmental organizations.

The National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration elaborates national strategy and objectives in six main directions: rule of law; education and state language; media and access to information; political integration and civil participation; social and regional integration; culture and preservation of identity. The Action Plan implies specific activities and programs according to strategic directions of the Concept that must be implemented in the next five years. Responsible for the implementation of relevant components of the Action Plan are specific governmental bodies, which are indicated in the document.

Implementation of the Action Plan is coordinated by the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues. Governmental bodies responsible for implementation of the Action Plan, according to the policy developed by the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues, present the reports developed in frames of their competence by the 5th day of every month. On 10th December of every year the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues presents its report on the implementation of the Action Plan by the relevant governmental bodies to the Government of Georgia and Civil Integration and Tolerance Council.

Implementation of the Action Plan is monitored by the Civil Integration and Tolerance Council, which, if necessary, will develop recommendations on the implementation of the Action Plan and will consider suggestions on changes and additions to the Action Plan.

Implementation of the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration is not limited to regions traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of national minorities.

The main financial source for the implementation of the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration and the Action Plan is the state budget.

II. Goals of the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration

The National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration has following goals:

- a) Create an environment of tolerance and respect among every person living in Georgia.
- b) Provide every citizen of Georgia equal opportunities to avail of civil, political, economic and social rights.
- c) Create necessary conditions for effective participation of persons, who belong to national minorities, in every sphere of political, social, economic and cultural life of Georgia.
- d) Provide equal access of national minorities to every level of education and address special educational needs in the field of general education.
- e) Create necessary conditions for preservation and development of minorities' cultures and for protection of essential elements of their identity, including religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.

III. Principles of the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration

The National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration is based on the following principles:

- a) Equality of every citizen of Georgia, nondiscrimination and strengthening of the tradition of tolerance.
- b) Maintenance of balance between civil integration and protection of minorities' identities, voluntary participation in the civil integration process and unacceptability of forced assimilation.
- c) Right of minorities to freely choose whether or not to be treated as such.
- d) Right of persons belonging to national minorities to realize those rights and freedoms, both individually and collectively, which derive from the Constitution of Georgia and Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.
- e) Effective participation of minorities in the decision-making process on issues directly or indirectly related to the protection and development of their identity.
- f) Ensure participation of the Civil Society Organizations in the process of monitoring the implementation of Tolerance and Civil Integration Action Plan.

IV. Main directions of the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration

1. Rule of Law

The Rule of Law is one of the strategic directions of the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration, which implies the implementation of following objectives:

- a) Further harmonize Georgian legislation with international commitments.
- b) Improve access of national minorities to the judicial system.
- c) Ensure effective protection of national minorities against discrimination.
- d) Raise awareness of public officials on the rights of minorities and anti-discrimination legislation.

2. Education and State Language

One of the most serious challenges for civil integration process in Georgia is the lack of knowledge of the state language among national minorities, which significantly impedes their full participation in the political, economic and social life of the country. Initially, it is necessary

to encourage increased motivation of national minorities to study the state language and implement programs promoting integration of students with special educational needs. The following objectives are set:

- a) Ensure access of national minority representatives to the pre-school education.
- b) Encourage receiving secondary education by national minority representatives.
- c) Improve accessibility of higher education for national minority representatives.
- d) Support teaching of the state language.
- e) Encourage public debate and civil integration in the field of education.

3. Media and Access to Information

An important step in respect of access to information by national minorities has been taken by the Georgian Public Broadcaster, which since 2005 broadcasts news programs in national minority languages. According to the recent legislative amendments no less than 25% of the Public Broadcaster's programming budget must be spent on broadcasting programs in minority languages. Considering the low level of knowledge of the state language and predominantly Georgian language of broadcasting of Georgian media it is important to carry out specific activities to ensure that national minorities are duly informed. The following objectives are set:

- a) Ensure access to national broadcaster in the regions populated by the national minorities.
- b) Ensure accessibility of the broadcasting programs in minority languages.
- c) Ensure media coverage and participation of national minorities in the broadcasting programs.
- d) Support electronic and print media in minority languages.
- e) Support establishment of tolerance and cultural pluralism in the media.

4. Political Integration and Civil Participation

In order to raise the level of political integration and civil participation of national minorities, public service skills development trainings are being carried out in recent years; in municipalities traditionally or predominantly populated with national minorities, they are encouraged to participate in the public service recruitment process, and election materials and ballot papers are published in their native languages. Active involvement of national minorities in the political and social life of the country will largely depend on an increased level of knowledge of the state language, and on Government to encourage them, initially, to start working in the public service. The following objectives are set:

- a) Ensure equal electoral rights for national minorities.
- b) Improve minority participation in the decision-making process.
- c) Promote Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

5. Social and Regional Integration

In recent years there have been made important steps to ensure full participation of national minorities in the economic and social life of the country. In regions populated with national minorities infrastructure rehabilitation and other large-scale economic projects have been carried out. The following objectives are set:

- a) Further development of infrastructure in the regions populated with national minorities.

- b) Provide professional retraining of national minorities and encourage their employment.
- c) Encourage social and regional mobility of minorities.

6. Culture and Preservation of Identity

In order to encourage participation of national minorities in cultural life of the country and support their cultural heritage the state plans to make specific steps in different directions, which imply implementation of the following objectives:

- a) Promote the formation of civil consciousness.
- b) Support preservation of the cultural identity of national minorities.
- c) Protect cultural heritage of national minorities.
- d) Encourage tolerance spirit and support intercultural dialogue and contacts.
- e) Ensure participation of national minorities in the cultural life of Georgia.
- f) Extend the knowledge of the society on culture, history, language, and religion of national minorities and present them as cultural values of the country.

Action Plan

Education and State Language

OBJECTIVE #1	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Ensure access of national minority representatives to the pre-school education	1.1	Development and piloting of pre-school teaching programs oriented to educational needs of national minorities	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	2009-2014	
	1.2	Development of a special program in the regions with significant national minority population to increase the level of preparedness to go to school. Raising awareness of parents on pre-school education and specific programs.	Parliamentary Alliance on Childcare at the early age; Ministry of Education and Science; Local self-governments; National Curriculum and Assessment Center	2009-2014	
OBJECTIVE #2	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Encourage receiving secondary education by national minority representatives	2.1	Translating National Curriculum and facilitating implementation trainings	Ministry of Education and Science; National Curriculum and Assessment Center	2009	
	2.2	Translating textbooks into national minority languages according to the teaching languages of the schools	Ministry of Education and Science; National Curriculum and Assessment Center	2009-2014	
	2.3	Targeted assistance to national minority schools in implementation of reform activities – development and implementation of relevant programs	Ministry of Education and Science	2009-2014	
	2.4	Optimizing multilingual teaching policy, piloting and implementation	Ministry of Education and Science; National Curriculum and Assessment Center; Teacher Professional Development Center	2009-2014	
	2.5	Publishing of the magazine “Mastsavlebeli” [A Teacher] in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages	Ministry of Education and Science; Teacher Professional Development Center	2009-2014	

	2.6	Translating “Teacher's handbook” (in three parts) and other auxiliary resources into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages	Ministry of Education and Science; Teacher Professional Development Center	2009-2014	
	2.7	Targeted professional trainings for teachers and representatives of school administrations	Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia	2009-2014	
OBJECTIVE #3	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Improve accessibility of higher education for national minority representatives	3.1	Elaboration of the preparatory-integration course concept in the higher education institution, its piloting and implementation	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia; National Examination Center, Higher education institutions	2009-2014	Legislative changes and first flow in 2009
	3.2	Elaboration and implementation of “Social Grants Program” and other targeted programs	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	2009-2014	
	3.3	Sending national minority representatives abroad to study on Bachelor's and Master's programs	Development and Reforms Foundation	2009-2014	
OBJECTIVE #4	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Support teaching of the state language	4.1	Implementation of Georgian as a second language teaching program in non-Georgian language schools	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia; OSCE	2009-2014	
	4.2	Elaboration and development of Georgian language textbooks and teaching resources	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	2009-2014	
	4.3	Training for Georgian language teachers from Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli non-Georgian language schools (special professional vouchers for teachers to study “Georgian as communication language” and “Georgian as a second language”)	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Teacher Professional Development Center	2009-2014	Already on voucher funding
	4.4	Elaboration and implementation of extracurricular educational and civil integration oriented programs and projects	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	2009-2014	

	4.5	Programs for assisting teenagers and adults in learning state language	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	2009-2014	In partnership with non-Governmental organizations
	4.6	Planning and implementation of events to recruit Georgian language teachers in the regions	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	2009	
	4.7	Software, internet programs, web portals and educational games for studying Georgian language	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	2009	

Action Plan

Media and Access to Information

OBJECTIVE #1	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Ensure access to national broadcaster in the regions populated by the national minorities	Rehabilitation of GPB's coverage system		Georgian Public Broadcaster	2009-2014	
OBJECTIVE #2	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Ensure accessibility of the broadcasting programs in minority languages	1) TV news programs		Georgian Public Broadcaster	2009-2014	
	2.1.1	Moambe in Abkhazian (frequency: once a week)			
	2.1.2	Moambe in Ossetian (frequency: once a week)			
	2.1.3	Moambe in Armenian (frequency: once a week)			
	2.1.4	Moambe in Azerbaijani (frequency: once a week)			
	2.1.5	Moambe in Russian (frequency: once a week)			
	2) Radio news programs		Public Radio FM 102.4	2009-2014	
	2.2.1	News program in Abkhazian (frequency: daily)			
	2.2.2	News program in Ossetian (frequency: daily)			
	2.2.3	News program in Armenian (frequency: daily)			
	2.2.4	News program in Azerbaijani (frequency: daily)			
	2.2.5	News program in Russian (frequency: daily)			

	2.2.6	News program in Kurdish (frequency: daily)			
OBJECTIVE #3	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Ensure media coverage and participation of national minorities in the broadcasting programs	Talk show “Italiuri Ezo” [the Italian Yard]		GPB, UNA, within the frames of USAID-supported National Integration and Tolerance in Georgia program	2009-2014	
OBJECTIVE #4	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Support electronic and print media in minority languages	1) Periodicals published within the frames of a Support to Literature Program:		Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sport of Georgia	2009-2014	
	4.1.1	Armenian newspaper “Vrastani”			
	4.1.2	Azerbaijani newspaper “Gurjistan”			
	4.1.3	Russian newspaper “Svobodnaya Gruzya”			
OBJECTIVE #5	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Support establishment of tolerance and cultural pluralism in the media	1) Series of documentaries - Multiethnic Georgia		GPB, UNA, within the frames of USAID-supported National Integration and Tolerance in Georgia program	2009-2014	
	2) Private Show Chveni Sakartvelo [Our Georgia]		Public radio FM 102.4	2009-2014	

Action Plan

Political Integration and Civil Participation

OBJECTIVE #1	Name of the program/Activity	Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Ensure equal electoral rights for national minorities	Translate ballot papers in minority languages	Central Election Commission of Georgia; International Organizations		
OBJECTIVE #2	Name of the program/Activity	Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Improve minority participation in the decision-making process	<p>1) Conclude memorandums of mutual cooperation between the Ethnic Minorities' Council under the Public Defender of Georgia and the following ministries:</p> <p>a) Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues; b) Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia; c) Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure; d) Ministry of Justice; e) Ministry of Internal Affairs; f) Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia; g) Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation; h) Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia</p>	Executive Government	2009	
	<p>2) Conclude memorandums of mutual cooperation between the Regional Ethnic Minorities Council and Governors offices in the following regions:</p> <p>a) Governors Office in Kvemo Kartli; b) Governors Office in Samtskhe-Javakheti; c) Governors Office in Kakheti; d) Governors Office in Imereti; e) Autonomous Republic of Adjara.</p>	Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure; Civil Integration and Tolerance Council functioning under President	2009	

OBJECTIVE #3	Name of the program/Activity	Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Promote Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	Print and distribute Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	Office of the State Minister for Reintegration Issues; Civil Integration and Tolerance Council functioning under President	2009-2014	

Action Plan

Social and Regional Integration

OBJECTIVE #1	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Further development of infrastructure in the regions populated with national minorities	1) Samtskhe-Javakheti road rehabilitation project		Millennium Challenge Georgia Foundation	2006-2010	
	1.1.1	Rehabilitation of road and transportation network in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions			
	2) Energy infrastructure rehabilitation project		Millennium Challenge Georgia Foundation	2006-2010	
	1.2.1	Rehabilitation of the damaged sections of North-South main pipeline			
	3) Regional infrastructure development project		Millennium Challenge Georgia Foundation	2006-2010	
	1.3.1	Improvement of municipal services			
OBJECTIVE #2	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Provide professional retraining of national minorities and encourage their employment	1) Presidential program for rehabilitation of vocational education centers		Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	2006-2009	
	2.1.1	Rehabilitation of several vocational education centers in the regions densely populated by national minorities			
	2) Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration and retraining of public servants		Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	2009-2012	
	2.2.1	Support involvement of representatives of national minorities in public sector			

	3) Implement vocational education policy and programs that will be oriented to the needs and peculiarities of the regions densely populated by national minorities	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	2009-2014	
	4) Making small production a profitable agribusiness. Agribusiness development project:	Millennium Challenge Georgia Foundation	2006-2011	
2.4.1	Primary production			
2.4.2	Establishing service centers for farmers			
2.4.3	Small scale processing			
2.4.4	Creation of a production chain			
	5) Georgia's regional development fund's projects: Investing in small and medium-size plants	Millennium Challenge Georgia Foundation	2006-2011	

Action Plan

Culture and Preservation of Identity

OBJECTIVE #1	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Support preservation of the cultural identity of national minorities	1) Assistance program to the cultures of Georgia's national minorities		Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sport of Georgia	2009-2014	
	1.1.1	Supporting LEPL (legal entity of public law) Davit Baazov Georgia's Jews historic and ethnographic museum			
	1.1.2	Supporting the activities of Georgia's cultural relations center - the Caucasian House			
	1.1.3	Supporting the activities of LEPL Mirza Patali-Akhundov's Azerbaijani cultural museum			
	1.1.4	Supporting the activities of the Russian cultural center of Georgia			
	1.1.5	Supporting LEPL Tbilisi Petros Adamiani State Drama Theatre			
	1.1.6	Supporting LEPL Tbilisi Azerbaijani State Drama Theatre			
	2) Provide assistance to regional libraries, clubs and art schools				
1.2.1	Supporting Baghlojiani musical school in Kvareli	Kvareli council	2009-2014		

	1.2.2	Supporting a musical and art school, 14 clubs (ten of them is Armenian) and 4 libraries (two of them is Armenian) in Akhalkalaki	Akhalkalaki council		
	1.2.3	Supporting a musical school, 21 libraries (18 of them is Armenian) and 20 clubs (18 of them is Armenian) in Ninotsminda	Ninotsminda council	2009-2014	
	1.2.4	Supporting a musical school, 18 libraries (11 of them is Azerbaijani, 4 of them is Armenian) and 4 rural clubs in Marneuli	Marneuli council	2009-2014	
	1.2.5	Supporting a musical school, a library (for the Armenian population) and a cultural house in Tsalka	Tsalka council	2009-2014	
	1.2.6	Supporting Eredvi musical school and 18 libraries (five of them Ossetian) in Gori	Gori council	2009-2014	
	1.2.7	Supporting 19 libraries (one of them is Azerbaijani) and one club in Gardabani	Gardabani council	2009-2014	
	1.2.8	Supporting 9 libraries in Bolnisi (two of them is Azerbaijani)	Bolnisi council	2009-2014	
	1.2.9	Supporting 4 libraries in Dmanisi (one of them is Azerbaijani)	Dmanisi council	2009-2014	
OBJECTIVE #2	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Protect cultural heritage of national minorities	1) Protection of material and nonmaterial cultural heritage of national minorities:				
	2.1.1	Registration and inventory of cultural monuments of national minorities	Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sport of Georgia	2009-2014	
	2.1.2	Monuments' restoration	Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sport of Georgia	2009-2014	

	2.1.3	Program for supporting pantheons in Tbilisi and care of cultural monuments: Protection and care of pantheons in Tbilisi, including those of Armenian writers and public figures	Tbilisi City Hall	2009-2014	
OBJECTIVE #3	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Encourage tolerance spirit and support intercultural dialogue and contacts	1) Introducing Tolerance as a subject in the secondary school curriculum		Ministry of Education and Science; Federation “Save the Children”	2009-2014	
OBJECTIVE #4	Name of the program/Activity		Implementing organization/ Partner	Timeframe	Remark
Extend the knowledge of the society on culture, history, language, and religion of national minorities and present them as cultural values of the country	1) Talk show “Italiuri Ezo” [the Italian Yard]		GPB, UNA, within the frames of USAID-supported National Integration and Tolerance in Georgia program	2009-2014	
	2) Series of documentaries - Multiethnic Georgia		GPB, UNA, within the frames of USAID-supported National Integration and Tolerance in Georgia program	2009-2014	
	3) Private Show Chveni Sakartvelo [Our Georgia]		Public radio FM 102.4	2009-2014	