



LDA Georgia Newsletter

February 28, 2017



Meeting with Ambassador of France to Georgia

LDA Georgia's Executive Director, Nino Khukhua, and Youth for Europe project members met with Pascal Meunier, Ambassador of France to Georgia, Kutaisi City Hall representatives, and ALDA Eastern Partnership (EaP) Coordinator, Nino Tvaltvadze. During the meeting, the Ambassador introduced current and future activities of the French Embassy in Georgia, and listened to the Youth for Europe project presentation. Khukhua presented LDA Georgia's mission and strategic goals. Tvaltvadze presented ALDA's mission in EaP countries, and its long-term cooperation with France and Georgia.

There are plans for joint educational youth projects with the cooperation of the French Embassy.

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EaP Civil Society Forum Georgian National Platform Coordinating Council Meeting in Kutaisi

LDA Georgia hosted the meeting that was focused on European integration and the general objectives and tasks of the National Platform. Attendees included members of the National Platform Coordination Council and regional NGO and media organizations. Speakers were: Kakha Gogolashvili, Chairman of the National Platform; Lasha Tugushi, Project Director of "Strengthening and Capacity Building of Georgian National Platform for the Eastern Partnership;" Archil Karaulashvili, First Deputy Minister of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia; Givi Tchitchinadze, Governor of Imereti Region, and his administration members; Nino Khukhua, Executive Director, LDA Georgia; and Nino Tvaltvadze, Coordinator of EaP of ALDA.

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Memorandum of Understanding

An MOU was signed by the Imereti Governor, Georgian National Platform of the EaP Civil Society Forum, and LDA Georgia, addressing the EU integration process.

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LDA Georgia hosted European Union Monitoring Mission

LDA Georgia hosted European Union Monitoring Mission representatives Mr. Attila Nagy and Mrs. Monica-Nicoleta Lamasanu. The purpose of the meeting was to share information about implemented, ongoing, and future activities of LDA Georgia, who was invited to attend #EUMM monthly informational meetings in Zugdidi. We are eager to strengthen our partnership with EUMM and support its mission in Georgia.

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Meeting with the Central Election Commission

Nino Khukhua, Executive Director, LDA Georgia, and Irma Pavliashvili, Project Coordinator, Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, met the Head of the Disability Working Group at the Central Election Commission. The meeting focused on planned activities of the "Strengthen the Capacity of People with Disabilities in Elections and Politics" project, and the needs of people with disabilities. LDA Georgia conducted comprehensive research on electoral and political legislation, international standards, and practices that Georgia is obligated to comply with in order to ensure protection of the electoral rights of persons with disabilities.

Twenty Students Visit Strasbourg

Twenty Youth for Europe project members visited Strasbourg, France, to learn about European values and EU institutions. They visited the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and the European Youth Center in December, and received information about how the institutions work. Mariam Maisaia, Deputy Permanent Representative of Georgia in the Council of Europe, presented the 2015-2019 Action Plan and discussed Human Rights protection projects. At the European Youth Center, they learned about international youth programs, introduced their project, and discussed possible future cooperation. Participants met with NGOs and Strasbourg's deputy mayor to discuss European values.



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Before the Strasbourg visit, participants received training on EU history, mission, and institutions.

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Youth for Europe Participants Awarded Certificates

Shota Mughulia, Mayor of Kutaisi Municipality, met with Youth for Europe students to hear their impressions of the Study Visit to Strasbourg, and receive certificates from the Mayor, Executive Director of LDA Georgia, and the Deputy Governor of Imereti.

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LDA Georgia elected head of local self-government group

Nino Khukhua, Executive Director of LDA Georgia, participated in the Civil Society Regional Networks (R-CSN) working group meeting. Representatives of R-CSN discussed ongoing reforms, the regional process, and challenges in Georgia. Thematic working groups of the 2017 Action Plan were formed and made an analysis of the current situation. LDA Georgia was elected as the head of a group of local self-governments.

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LDA Georgia now a Partner of the FAO

LDA Georgia became a partner of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. On February 7, 2017, partner organizations held an introductory meeting

and discussed cooperation principles.

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LDA Georgia now a Partner of the Center for Training and Consultation

LDA Georgia will work with 10 municipalities of Georgia. The partnership aims to strengthen local governments.

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Participate in Management Final Conference

Representatives from 12 municipalities in the Imereti Region, Governor Administration, media, and active citizens from different municipalities attended the final conference of this project. Project results were presented and a guidebook titled “Citizen Involvement Mechanisms,” was published that discussed NGO current activities and projects in the Imereti Region. LDA

Georgia also published a guidebook titled, “Domestic Legislation and International Best Practices of Civil Engagement.” The project was funded by the USAID-EWMI-ACCESS Program.

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Participate in Governance

LDA Georgia supported community meeting organizational processes in Bazaleti village as part of the “Participate in Governance” project. Lack of Internet in the village was selected as the highest priority problem by the community members. The elected community leader, “Rcheuli” Mr. Mamia Lomsadze, will continue advocating for a solution





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with the partnership of LDA Georgia, municipality council members, and other stakeholders from the village.

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Empowering Grass-Roots Homeowners' Associations in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine

This project supports apartment resident-owners organizing effective homeowners' associations (HOA). In some countries, residents are legally required to organize an HOA, but in reality residential buildings are often managed by State administration companies. These companies are highly criticized, as they often lack transparency and qualified personnel.



European Parliament removes visa requirement for Georgians when traveling to Schengen Zone

LDA Georgia congratulates the citizens of Georgia for the historic decision adopted by the European Parliament removing the visa requirement for Georgians traveling to the European Union's Schengen Zone. We believe that this is an important step toward Georgia becoming closer to the great European family. One of the major goals of LDA Georgia is to support Georgian-EU integration and the promotion of European values in Georgia. We are proud of our implemented projects in this area. We are grateful to the European Parliament for their trust, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations for their cooperation and achievements.



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Meeting with LDA Georgia Partner

Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA, Nino Khukhua, Executive Director of LDA Georgia, and Nina Khatiskatsi, Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi City Municipality, met in Tbilisi to discuss future plans and possibilities for cooperation.

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LDA Georgia participates in Erasmus+ Youth Exchange Social Entrepreneurship Program

LDA Georgia's "Youth for Europe" member, Shako Chkheidze, participated in the Erasmus+ Youth Exchange Social Entrepreneurship program, in Yerevan, Armenia. Chkheidze was sent with help from the Students' Youth Council. The main aim of this Youth Exchange was to create a platform and a process where young people empower themselves and others in their communities through the exchange of ideas, stories, attitudes, techniques, and tools that promote a social entrepreneurial spirit and skills of young people in general and marginalized youth among refugees/asylum seekers and migrants in particular. LDA Georgia will send more motivated young people to other Erasmus+ projects this year.



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Contact Information:

Local Democracy Agency Georgia

Address: Tsereteli str. #111, Kutaisi 4600, Georgia

Tel: +995 (0)431 24 24 02

E-mail: ldageorgia@aldaintranet.org; nino_khukhua@yahoo.com

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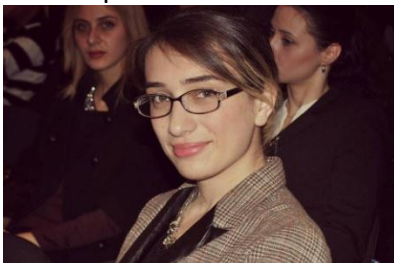
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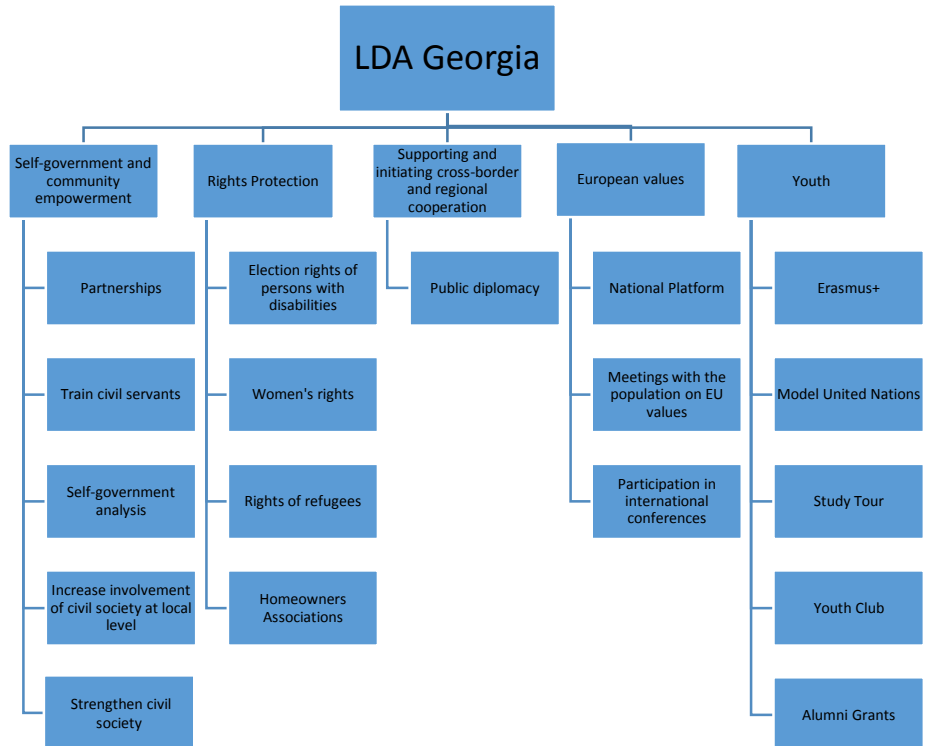
LDA Strategic Scheme

The mission of LDA Georgia is to strengthen local democracy and civil society, support democratic reforms in Georgia, and develop new and innovative approaches to local and national challenges, by cooperating with the local and international stakeholders.

- Capacity building programs for local authorities and NGOs
- Promote active citizenship and good governance
- Promote human and minority rights
- Support and initiate cross-border and regional cooperation
- Promote EU integration and European values at the local level



Nino Khukhua
Executive Director



Staff:

Nino Khukhua, Executive Director
 Maka Tsertsvadze, Youth Programs Coordinator
 Davit Saralidze, Financial Manager
 P.K. Royalty, Peace Corps Volunteer

Partners:

City of Kutaisi, Georgia (Host City)
 City of Strasbourg, France (Lead Partner)
 City of Tbilisi, Georgia
 Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, Georgia
 Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region, Poland
 Municipality of Monfalcone, Italy
 National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia, Georgia
 Partners-Georgia, Georgia

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