

Strengthening Local Capacities for Children’s Rights Protection in Georgia

The project “Strengthening Local Capacities for Children’s Rights Protection in Georgia” was launched with financial support of the European Commission in early 2016. Under the leadership of the OSGF, its partner organizations the Civic Development Institute (CDI), the Marneuli Youth Centre (MYC), the ‘Toleranti’ Regional Association and the Society ‘Biliki’, are implementing the project aimed at strengthening human rights protection and democratization processes in vulnerable regions of Georgia. The Association Agreement between Georgia and EU obliges Georgia to strengthen “respect for fundamental freedoms, human rights of persons belonging to minorities, democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance”. The project assists the country in carrying it obligations with respect to provision of equal educational opportunities to minorities and creation of a safe environment within schools in the regions of Georgia.

The project has two specific objectives:

- To promote co-operation between public schools, decision-makers and CSOs to reduce the incidence of early marriage, child labor and school drop-out
- To build the capacity of civil society actors to become an effective force for the protection of children’s rights

The duration of the project is twenty four months and it covers three regions: Kvemo Kartli, Shida Kartli, and Samtskhe-Javakheti. OSGF and its partners plan to work with **45 schools, 90 teachers and 450 parents** in selected regions to introduce and implement new policies, innovative ideas and creative approaches for educational, personal and social development of ethnic minority children and to reduce incidences of early marriage, child labor and school drop-out cases. The involvement of parents in school-based actions is also envisioned. Series of trainings and workshops for teachers, principals and parents will help in acquisition of new skills, attitudes and the knowledge for better protection of the rights of vulnerable children, enhancement of school-based services and improvement of school environments. Local civic activists in selected regions will carry out communication campaigns on vulnerable children’s rights protection. Establishment of a permanent communication mechanism for exchange of ideas between the communities and decision-makers will strengthen inclusive policy making mechanisms. The experience gained through the project will be widely shared throughout the country and beyond.