



SPOTLIGHT

Center for Civil Integration and Inter-Ethnic Relations

2014

Mission Statement



Formation of civic awareness in the society and respect for human rights are fundamental issues for all democratic states. The main principle of democratic societies is its active participation/engagement in state life. The mission of the organization is to facilitate the process of formation of active citizens, who are well informed about the situation in the state, and are able to participate in social, political, economic and cultural domains of public life.

CCIIR Aims To:

- Study challenging areas of education system and through deep analysis provide relevant recommendations for positive changes;
- Develop and advocate policy documents in education and development fields;
- Develop and implement projects and programs striving at civil integration and extending inter-ethnic relations;
- Protect and advocate rights of most disadvantaged groups of society including ethnic minorities, refugees, repatriated, deported, internally displaced population;
- Support planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of educational reforms;
- Facilitate growth of well-educated young people with strong civic conscience;
- Promote and encourage life-long education, early and adults' literacy;
- Facilitate the process of formation of language policy, support bilingual education and advance state and minority language teaching processes;
- Building human capacity of minority and other marginalized population and empower them for participation in decision-making processes;
- Fight for peace building and reconciliation, ethnic conflict prevention.

Organizational history

The Centre for Civil Integration and Inter-Ethnic Relations is a non-governmental, non-commercial organization established in 2005. The organizational goals were to support the integration process of ethnic minority



population of Georgia through capacity building and education interventions, including language policy and multiculturalism, enabling them to be equal participants of social, cultural, political and economic domains of state life. Possession of state language and development of sense of citizenship were seen as the key factors for success.

More than 30 projects directly targeting different groups of ethnic minority society have been implemented since an establishment of the organization. The diverse and multilevel approach including development of teaching, learning and methodological materials, elaboration of teachers' professional development curricular and university courses for teachers' education, organizing the training courses and workshops for pedagogical and administrative staff, providing the local population with professional and academic materials in both state and native languages, study tours and exchange programs of school and university society are a few of the main areas in which CCIIR has worked in. The solid experience, high qualified experts and staff, strong cooperation with international and leading local organizations, expertise in education and development areas, positive assessment of donor organizations and constructive cooperation with governmental institutions resulted in the broadening of the organization geographical and contextual areas. The organization started working on needs and demands existing in education system of Georgia. The absolute necessity to identify the urgent issues, learn the context and determine the direction and lack of data analysis, research and statistics on situation in the country led the organization to the new direction – research and policy

development. Today the organization is one of those 16 analytical organizations which signed an *Ethical and Quality Standards Document*. The document presents comprehensive standards to guide the work of Georgian think tanks and establishes principles to ensure that the think tanks meet the highest possible professional standards.

Up to today, the organization has implemented more than 40 projects, developed 10 teachers professional development programs, teachers' bilingual and second language education programs, more than 150 academic, methodological, instructional materials, textbooks, created E-platform for improvement of reading literacy and implemented comprehensive researches in general and tertiary education.

CCIIR Priorities

CCIIR works towards achieving programs through multiple priority areas. Since 2005, CCIIR has developed, implemented and researched programs with the aim to address the following priority areas:

1. Policy study and analysis
2. Multilingual Education
3. Teachers' Education
4. Higher Education Programs
5. Youth Development
6. Literacy and bi-literacy

Target Groups of CCIIR

CCIIR primarily targets populations engaged in the education processes of different types and on different levels, where support of underprivileged and marginalized populations of the country deprived of equal education and development rights is emphasized.

Key Projects and achievements

All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development

In 2011, CCIIR and USAID established a partnership within the framework of the “All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development”

program. The project was developed to improve reading literacy



in native language and second languages of ethnic minority students in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions of Georgia. The project “The Development of Bilingual Literacy in Minority Schools of Georgia” is carried out in 216 minority schools. The time period is 2012 – 2014 and targets 432 teachers and 30 000 pupils of primary school and their parents.

Achievements:

- The first formula for Georgian language for leveling of reading materials is developed;
- The Software Reading Corpus Analyst for rigorous analysis of the texts is developed;
- The first baseline study of reading skills in native and second language is conducted;
- 416 Bilingual Leveled Reading Texts - “reading ladder” are developed, and will be printed and disseminated;
- Web-site www.reading.ge as well as computer program for leveled reading texts are developed;
- Multilingual Illustrative Computer Dictionary integrated in computer program for bilingual leveled reading texts is under developing;
- 432 primary school teachers of 216 minority schools will develop their professional skills for intensive in-service professional development program of effective reading instruction;

“THE INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION RESEARCH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF GEORGIA”

Funded by USAID in the framework of the EWMI’s program G-PAC, the project was implemented over a one year period in 2013 in all regions of Georgia. The research design targeted 2085 public schools and represented approximately 350 000 students of primary school including, their parents and 25000 teachers of primary grade. The research aimed to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students and to facilitate of preparation of tolerant and inter-culturally sensitive citizens. The methodologies applied within the research included: 1. Analysis of 17 Textbook of primary grade, curricular and subject standard; 2. Face-To-Face interviews of 65 teachers of primary grades 3.Survey of 400 teachers of primary grades; 4. Thirteen Focus Group Discussions with students and their parents.



Achievements:

- Published a research report consisting of 280 pages and encompassing findings and more than 100 policy recommendations;
- Disseminated research findings through round tables, various media, online sources, national public libraries and reached over 25000 individuals both within Georgia and globally;
- Provided recommendations on gender balance in approval rules of textbooks as well as integration of aspects of multiculturalism in teachers’ standard and professional development programs adopted;
- Initiated and conducted further discussions on effective multicultural education at school level and appropriate steps in this direction.

“STUDY OF OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY IN GEORGIA”

Was funded by The United Nations Association of Georgia in the framework of the USAID funded program Advanced National Integration. The project was implemented over a one year period in 2013 and was carried out in all regions of Georgia. The aim was to examine whether the new affirmative action policy ensures equal educational opportunities for all students. To meet this goal, CCIIR employed various research methodologies such as: 1. Analysis of the teaching/learning materials as well as curricular of the programs; 2. Face-To-Face Interviews with 210 students; 3. 4 Interviews with program heads; 4. Twelve Focus Group Discussions with faculty members, program graduates and upper secondary school students. The research targeted App. 1500 ethnic minority students studying at the Georgian Language program or continuing education in BA programs, school personnel and school students, HEI faculty members and MoES officials.



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Achievements:

- Developed the research report and recommendation package in Georgian and English languages and communicated findings to all relevant stakeholders;
- Initiated the steps for improvement of ongoing affirmative action policy towards ethnic minority students.

“SUPPORTING EDUCATION REFORM IN GEORGIA”

The program supported by the Office of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities has been implementing since 2009 and aims at assistance of Education policy makers to plan and implement effective education policy towards ethnic minority population. The program covered diverse educational directions and sectors and covers more than 12% of total population of Georgia.

Achievements:

- Developed in-service teacher's training and Teachers' Education programs;
- Retrained more than 100 local education staff including senior trainers, school teachers, administration, faculties;
- Developed methodological guides "language and testing" and "Content and language integrated learning" for grades 1-12 for eight subjects;
- Developed visual aid materials and teaching-learning resources supporting schools in language teaching/learning process;
- Carried out a deep analysis of textbooks for gender mainstreaming in education processes;
- Developed and published trilingual periodical journal "Bilingual Education" encompassing academic, practical and theoretical perspectives of multiculturalism and bilingualism;
- Developed language portfolio and passport for four age categories.

"DEVELOPMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF MULTILINGUAL TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT UNIVERSITIES OF GEORGIA AND UKRAINE"

This three year project is funded by European Commission TEMPUS program and has been implementing since 2013. The twelve higher educational institutions from Georgia, Ukraine, Germany, Latvia, and Lithuania are partners in the project. As a result of the project (a) HEIs of Georgia and Ukraine will deliver modern BA, MA programs in Multilingual Education majoring in two directions: 1. Teacher education; 2. Educational administration; (b) Teachers for basic and secondary schools will raise their capacity in different subject areas; (c) A model platform and web-sites for programs and courses for Georgia and Ukraine will be launched; (d) HEI faculty of Georgia and Ukraine will apply modern pedagogical methods due to prepare qualified teachers;

- The CCIIR will contribute to the success of the project while translating 20 most important textbooks in the field of education for targeted universities into Georgian language;
- Coordinating the development and publishing of E-journal "International Journal on Multilingual Education" in 2013-2015.

Ongoing work and future plans

- CCIIR is currently planning to conduct the **“Education financing system and equity in Georgia”**. This project aims to support an equity and social justice in education system of Georgia while examining effectiveness and efficiency of recent reforms from financing perspectives, its implications on education quality and equal accessibility and putting comprehensive analysis’.

- The CCIIR has recently started the **“Preparedness for Multicultural Instruction in Teachers’ Education system in Georgia” project**. A study will be conducted within the project which strives to improve teachers’ education and professional development in terms of mainstreaming and promoting multiculturalism. Additionally, a comprehensive public policy document and recommendations package will be developed to improve teachers’ competencies and effectiveness with regard to multiculturalism.

- The CCIIR is expanding its work on leveled reading materials and effective reading instructions enriching already existing resources and experience with new approaches and additional materials which includes developing lessons plans for teachers, making audio books for students’ reading fluency, developing an iBook, iTunes, iPad and iPhone applications of reading texts; extending web-site functionality and developing more reading texts and exercises.

- The CCIIR is a consortium member of DOIT project consisted of tertiary education institutions from 7 countries and funded under the TEMPUS program. The aims are to enhance the quality of educational programs for promoting multicultural education, human and children’s rights and cultural diversity through a multi-faceted program that will bring about curriculum reform in its partner’s Higher Educational Institutions in Israel and Georgia. The CCIIR takes part in developing university course in human/children’s rights and facilitates Georgian students’ engagement in multicultural activities.



List of Donors and partners

- United States Agency for International Development (USAID); All Children Reading Program
- OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
- East-West Management Institute- Policy, Advocacy and Civil Society Development in Georgia (GPAC)
- European Commission
- US Embassy
- United Nations Association of Georgia
- International Rescue Committee
- Language Division of Council of Europe
- Open Society-Georgia Foundation
- CIMERA, Switzerland
- Latvian Language Acquisition Agency (LVAVA)
- NGO “Prodidactica”, Moldova
- Eurasia Partnership Foundation
- Urban Institute
- Open society Institute- East-East Program
- Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia
- Civil Integration Foundation
- NGO “School, Family, Society”
- Young Republican Institute
- International Association of Osetian Women “Alaneli”
- Azerbaijani women Association
- Tbilisi IvaneJavakhishvili State University
- Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics
- Association of Georgian Language Modeling
- Caucasian University

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Please visit the following web-sites for additional information:

www.cciir.ge

www.multilingualeducation.org

www.reading.ge

www.ganatleba.ge

www.bilingualeducation.ge

www.civileducation.ge