

EU SUPPORT TO LOCAL ACTION GROUPS IN GEORGIA

What are the ways of promoting rural development in Georgia and how can we encourage people to return to their villages, to strengthen rural economy and to help the country's rural population live a healthy and quality life? The European experience has shown that a key driver of rural development is local people, who know best what the community needs are, and how to address them.



To this end, the EU under the ENPARD programme has been empowering local people by mobilizing them through **Local Action Groups (LAGs)** so that they can contribute to the improvement of livelihood in their villages.



LAG is a non-profit group, made up of representatives of the local community (public, private and civil society sectors) that decides the directions and content of local development strategy and pursues diverse socio-economic activities to the benefit of the local community. Key to LAG's operation is the vision, energy and commitment of local people.

HOW DID THE MOBILIZING LOCAL POPULATIONS HELPED DEVELOP THEIR REGIONS

- ▶ Through partners, helped **establish LAGs in 12 municipalities in Georgia** and mobilized community to **contribute to local development**
- ▶ Supported the LAGs to:
 - define local development **priorities and needs** and the ways to address them
 - work out area-based **local development strategy** and promote **diversified local economic activities**
 - **allocate grants to local development initiatives** selected in line with the strategy
- ▶ **Funded over 500 rural development initiatives** selected by the LAGs from diverse economic and social spheres: **agriculture, tourism, social and rural infrastructure, environment, education, sports and culture**
- ▶ These initiatives **provided better employment** to over 1000 rural households, and **improved living conditions** of over 10,000 rural population
- ▶ At the central level, the EU assisted the government to develop the policy and to **implement the long-term National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2021-2027**
- ▶ Helped to **create Georgian Association of LAGs and Georgian Rural Development Network (GRDN)** to promote policy advocacy and active dialogue between the government and LAGs

MAPPING LAGs AND FUNDED LOCAL INITIATIVES (LDIs) IN GEORGIA



WHAT IS THE IMPACT?



“Khulo has grown a lot, civic awareness has improved, people are more active and try to be engaged in the development of the municipality.”

- Aslan Tunadze, Khulo LAG



“The work of LAG has motivated the local community. They see that Keda has a great potential and try to make the best use of local resources.”

- Giorgi Abuladze, Keda LAG



“Tetrtskaro LAG has helped mobilize local communities from different sectors, who now direct their vision and experience towards the municipality development goals.”

- Nino Tikurishvili, Tetrtskalo LAG

WHAT'S NEXT?

Under the fourth phase of the ENPARD programme, the EU will further support rural development by also aiming to improve the economic and social integration of vulnerable households, including eco-migrants, conflict affected people, ethnic minorities, Georgian returnees and migrants.

Actions will continue to include civic participation in the regions of Georgia through increased civil society involvement in local decision-making processes and will continue to actively promote and encourage participation of youth and women, noting the specific needs and constraints of these groups.

For more information check out [campaign page](#) and www.enpard.ge