



Memorandum of Mutual Cooperation

Zugdidi

7 August, 2017 წ.

I General Provisions

State Representative - Governor of Samegrelo – Zemo Svaneti in the municipalities of Abasha, Zugdidi, Martvili, Mestia, Senaki, Chkorotsku, Tsalenjikha, Khobi and the Cities of Poti and Zugdidi, David Kodua, on the one hand,

And,

Ketevan Vashakidze, Chair of the Georgian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, and Nana Todua, Chair of the “Association Merkuri”, as the Regional Representative of the Georgian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in Samegrelo region, on the other hand, agree on the present memorandum of mutual cooperation in the municipalities of Abasha, Zugdidi, Martvili, Mestia, Senaki, Chkorotsku, Tsalenjikha, Khobi and the Cities of Poti and Zugdidi, which aims to facilitate the process of Georgian integration with the EU.

II Scope of Cooperation

Parties agree, that there is a need to raise awareness in Samegrelo region about the process of European Integration, to ensure that civil society is included in the process of implementing the Association Agreement, to support harmonization of Georgian Legislation with the EU legislation, regional

development and cooperation at the regional level, inclusion of citizens in the local-decision making processes.

III Cooperation Between the Parties

Cooperation between the parties includes:

1. Raise awareness in Samegrelo Regional NGOs, local government bodies, public bodies, business and non-budget funded organization employees, youth and students, in general public regarding the process of European integration, Association Agreement obligations, agenda emanating from these obligations and Georgia's European choice goals.
2. Increase the involvement of civil society organizations in the decision-making and implementation in Samegrelo regional public and local government bodies, as related to the AA obligations of Georgia and subsequent tasks.
3. To facilitate active monitoring of implementation of AA provisions by civil society organizations, namely, timely distribution of relevant information, via conducting an open and transparent dialogue with the government and local government bodies and through other relevant instruments.
4. "Establishing channels of communication and enhancing exchange of information and experience between national and local authorities, socio-economic actors and civil society" - as stipulated by Art. 372 of the EU-Georgia AA, establish links between the central and local-government bodies and civil society organizations.
5. To enlarge mutual cooperation for regional development, including tourism, education, cultural heritage protection, cooperation of regional organizations with international organizations, among others, European Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and European Committee for Regions, with the purpose of deepening contacts, develop democracy and decentralization.

IV Cooperation Mechanisms

1. Signing parties will cooperate within the frames of planned and future projects;

2. To achieve aims listed above, the Georgian National Platform and the Association Merkuri will attempt to secure co=funding and cooperation from national and international sources, engage business and other actors via cooperation and co-financing;
3. Will introduce cooperation formats, within which representative parties will periodically meet and discuss issues as related to the aims of this memorandum, will elaborate joint findings, recommendations, action plans, etc.

IV Concluding Chapter

Existing memorandum is viewed as a declaration on cooperation. Addenda and amendments shall be signed following agreement between the parties, in the written format and enters into force immediately and shall be operational during 1 (one) year.

The memorandum is drafted in three copies, conveys the will of the participating parties and is affirmed by signatures and a seal.