

Statement

of the Subgroup on Education and Science of the Fourth Working Group of the Georgian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

On The Introduction of “Me and Society” in the Schools

Due to the particular interest Georgian society has shown in the subject, the experts of the Subgroup on Education and Science of the Fourth Working Group of the Georgian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum have studied educational standard for the subject “Me and Society”, based on the fundamental principles of social sciences. It is significant in helping developing personality that is able to think freely, is able to make decisions, is future oriented, and thinks in a tolerant manner.

The program, composed of three elements, provides opportunities for students to have room for personal development, and to form value-based systems: 1. Personal Development; 2. Initiative and Entrepreneurship; 3. Social and Cultural Development, Citizenship and Safety

The Standard has clearly defined why studying social sciences are needed, based on which, a student becomes cognisant of why it is important to care for family, for immediate surroundings, for the homeland, and for cultural heritage.

Considering the above-stated, we, the member organizations of the Georgian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, declare that:

1. Teaching the subject “Me and Society” is crucial for our future generations, and by stopping it, we violate children’s rights (Please consult the Articles 8, 12, 13, 27, and 28 of Convention of Rights of Child http://unicef.ge/uploads/CRC_georgian_language_version.pdf) - to properly comprehend the world, and to make independent choices. No other school subject is able to provide these skills at the elementary education level;
2. The introduction of the subject “Me and Society” is important to help form a generation that is free-thinking, decision-making, hardworking, philanthropic, and freedom-loving. A society that is devoid of social science skills is easy to manipulate, and to negatively impact it;
3. It is imperative, that the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia introduces “Me and Society” to the schools in a timely manner; ensures that well-thought, and refined teaching materials, that meet the standard, are drafted; ensures that civil sector is included, and has the ability to monitor this process, so that students appropriately receive information included in the the program, and set by the the standard.

Signatory Organizations:

1. Junior Achievement of Georgia
2. Europe Foundation
3. International Society "Caucasian Mosaic"
4. Peaceful and Business Caucasus
5. Association "School-Family- Society"
6. Teachers' Union "Education and Universe"
7. Youth Alternative
8. Civil Society and Democracy Development Center
9. European Initiative - Liberal Academy Tbilisi
10. Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies
11. "Women Enterprise" Fund Georgia
12. Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi"
13. Repatriates' Union
14. The Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development
15. Save The Future Generation
16. Anti-Violence Network of Georgia
17. The United Nations Association of Georgia (UNAG)
18. Association of Tea Producers Georgia "Georgian Tea"
19. United Public Movement "Multinational Georgia"
20. Georgian Young Lawyers' Association
21. Association for the Farmers' Rights Defence
22. Foundation "Caucasus Environment"
23. Association for the efficient use of the Georgian energy resources