Georgia's European Way

საქართველოს ევროპული გზა

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

LEPL Information Center on NATO and EU
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Membership in NATO and the European Union is the irreversible choice of citizens of Georgia that has been reflected in new Constitution of Georgia.

This path will bring democratic development, security and welfare to the country. Same can be said in regard to those particular benefits, which the country received as a result of European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Today, Georgia is widely recognized as a democratic and economic transformation leader in the region.

Proactive communication about NATO and the EU is especially important today, in light of the sharply intensified anti-Western propaganda and disinformation. Countering this challenge has become one of the main priorities for NATO and the EU member and partner countries.

The key purpose of the Information Center on NATO and EU of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to raise awareness of the population of the Euro-Atlantic integration. The journal “Georgia’s European Way” serves this particular aim.

NATO Days 2018, which have been held in Georgia for the eleventh time, was part of the proactive strategic communication. Final event of NATO Days 2018 - "NATO-Georgia Public Diplomacy Forum" will be organized for the third time in the country. The present issue of the journal is dedicated to this event.

This year, the major concept of NATO-Georgia Public Diplomacy Forum is “360° Communication”, which fully complies with the vision of both NATO and Georgia (under the initiative of Georgian Prime Minister, 2018 was declared to be the year of engagement and dialogue). Our aim is to enhance awareness of the population on the North Atlantic Alliance, which is based on the values of freedom, democracy and rule of law, as well as provide information on the benefits that Georgia will enjoy as a consequence of NATO membership.
Since 2002, when Georgia officially declared its aspiration to become NATO member, our country has walked the long way and showed that it is valuable and reliable partner for the Alliance. NATO respectively recognized the progress achieved by Georgia in the implementation of democratic and economic reforms and in the modernization of the armed forces and defense institutions. Alliance considers Georgia to be the model country sharing the same democratic values as NATO.

Georgia has the closest relationship with NATO than ever. This progress has been achieved by our effective application of NATO’s political and practical support mechanisms. Georgia received an important instrument for preparation for the membership – the “Substantial NATO-Georgia Package” (SNGP) at the 2014 Wales Summit, which is unprecedented and specifically designed for Georgia. The aim of this package is to strengthen defence capabilities of Georgia and increase interoperability with NATO. The alliance recognizes that Georgia has all practical tools for membership, and both Georgia and NATO successfully use these instruments to achieve this goal.

Moreover, Georgia’s contribution to strengthening global peace and security is crucial for NATO. Georgia, despite being a small country, is not a passive recipient of European and world security. Georgian soldiers have been involved in NATO, EU and other international operations and missions for many years and thus, gaining a unique military experience.

Effort of each Georgian military serviceman in international missions, as well as of Georgia directed at the promotion of international security contribute to our own security and raise the level of professionalism of our armed forces and interoperability with NATO. All these, is important for enhancing country’s defence capabilities in order to cope with existing security challenges and ensure sustainable development.

NATO’s unwavering regard regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders and support to peaceful settlement of the conflict is of utmost importance. NATO member states firmly support Georgia’s interests in international formats.

In recent years, in light of increased aggression and threats to the east from NATO, the Alliance has decided to pay special attention to the security issues of Eastern European and the Black Sea region for ensuring peace and stability. At the NATO Warsaw Summit in 2016 it was decided that Georgia would take part in a strategic dialogue on the Black Sea Security.

Taking into consideration Georgia active and dynamic cooperation, upcoming NATO Summit is very important for us. We expect that at the NATO Brussels Summit decisions will be taken to strengthen Georgia’s practical cooperation with NATO and that aspirant Georgia’s progress as democratic development and NATO integration path will be duly recognized in Brussels in the context of the NATO Open Door policy.
EPL Information Center on NATO and EU was established in 2005. Initially, it was only serving to inform society about NATO, but since 2013, the Center’s mandate also includes EU related topics. Our daily work is to carry out information campaigns throughout all Georgia and inform wide public about Georgia’s European and Euro-Atlantic integration process. Since 2017, the Center works under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ACTIVITY AND FUTURE VISIONS OF THE INFORMATION CENTER ON NATO AND EU

Nino Bolkvadze
Director, Information Center on NATO and EU
განიკულების საგანმანათლებლო დაშვების დიპლომატიური, საერთაშორისო ლიგის და საერთაშორისო გარემოქმედების საქმიანობაში იმედება, როგორც ევროპელი და სატექნოლოგიური ექსპერტები და მეთად შეგროვებილი ობიექტები.

საქმიანობა შორისობა დაპირისპირებით მოიქმნება გარემოქმედების საქმიანობაში. ამ ფერობრინჯობას გარემოქმედებით ქმნილი ცხოვრება უკვე მდივანი იქნა. ამ პროცესის შედეგად ფონური გარემოქმედების გატანი უკავშირდება საქმიანობის საქმიანობა. სხვა საქმიანობად იტალიური მკვლევარების საქმიანობა, მათ შორის ევროპული უკიდის მიზეზთან ჩვეულებრივივ და სამეგრელო-უღლედის გარემოქმედებით იმედება.

საერთაშორისო ვუზების პროფესიონალურმა საქმიანობამ არსებობს საინფორმაციო და სატექნოლოგიურ საზოგადოებაში. ველური განაწილებების გადამზადება ზრდება და ამავე ხმებში ჟურნალური, სოციალური, პოლიტიკური, პროფესიული წარმოდგენები.

განადგურების ფიზიკურად დაგახრილი ჯგუფ უნდა ქართულ უცხოეულ მხარეებს იძახო, საერთაშორისო კულტურის წარმოდგენა და სახელმწიფო სახელმწიფო თემებს სიმაგრე მიეძინოს. ეს საქმიანობა არის გარემოქმედებით მკვლევრული საქმიანობა, რომელიც შედგება გარემოქმედების სიმაგრე გარემოქმედების სიმაგრე.

სავრცვლით, საშუალება გაძლებული იქნა განადგურების წარმოდგენება საქმიანობებში, შედეგი წარმოდგენების არსებობა. ევროპულმა და სატექნოლოგიურმა საქმიანობამ ისწავლობა აშენება საქმიანობაში. უკვე დღემდე დაახლოებით 16 პროექტი შედგება შესაძლო მიღება და გამყოფება ახლად გარემოქმედების საქმიანობაში. ეს საქმიანობა აქტიური როლი ასრულებს საქმიანობაში, შედეგი წარმოდგენების არსებობა.
NATO and Georgia are closer than ever. This is the clear, straightforward message that I would like to convey by contributing to this special issue of Georgia’s European Way. Since 1994, when Georgia joined the Partnership for Peace, we have forged a relationship that is mutually supportive, based on strong foundations, and offers Georgia all of the following tools for membership:

- The NATO-Georgia Commission;
- The Annual National Programme;
- The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package and its Joint Training and Evaluation Center.

We value Georgia’s contributions to our shared security. This message does not reflect my personal views only, but the views of the Allies and of NATO as a whole. On many occasions, and especially at the meetings of the NATO-Georgia Commission, Allies have expressed their appreciation for Georgia’s continuous support to NATO’s operations and missions, its progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration and for Georgia’s overall reform efforts.

Georgia’s contributions to NATO-led operations and missions are remarkable. Your troops have stood shoulder to shoulder with NATO for many years and Georgia is the biggest non-NATO contributor to
Georgia also plays a key role in the security of the Black Sea region. The Black Sea is of strategic importance to the Alliance as a whole. In response to Russia's build-up in the Black Sea, we are increasing NATO's presence in the region. We have more air patrols over the Black Sea, and NATO's Standing Naval Forces will be in the Black Sea more frequently for training and port visits.

We are stepping up work with partners bordering the Black Sea, including Georgia. And Georgia contributes to our assessment of security challenges in the Black Sea region too. This helps to increase our awareness and makes the Black Sea safer for all who operate on or around it.

The Brussels Summit in July will build on the implementation of decisions taken in Wales and Warsaw and, more specifically, it will build upon the following key themes:

- **Deterrence and defense**, where we could foresee deliverables on cyber, maritime posture, and military mobility.
- **Projecting stability and fighting terrorism**, including strengthened support for NATO's partners in the Middle East and North Africa.
- **Burden sharing**, with Allies making progress on the defense investment pledge.
- **Enhanced cooperation with partners such as Georgia and increased engagement with the Western Balkan countries**.
- **NATO-EU cooperation to maintain the momentum of the Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw.**

We expect Georgia, as one of NATO's closest partners, to actively contribute to our efforts to ensure project stability and we are keen to maintain close political dialogue to promote our common interests and values.

Georgia is an example for its region. We encourage Georgia to stay focused on the necessary reforms. We continue to see a positive trend in building democratic institutions and strengthening the rule of law. And we are ready to continue assisting Georgia to build its defense capabilities and to prepare for eventual membership.

Unfortunately, we do not see any signs that Russia is ready to change course and honor its international commitments. We are aware that Georgia is targeted by Russia and that the regional security environment remains volatile.

Allies will continue to stress their support for Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. They did so at the last Summit in Warsaw and we are confident that they will do so again when meeting in Brussels in early July.
Georgia’s aspiration to become an inseparable part of the Euro-Atlantic community is built upon our efforts to strengthen its self-defense capabilities. Sharing similar interests and security concerns with the West, we have started to deepen our cooperation with partner nations and Allies in order to achieve tangible results in the transformation of the Georgian Armed Forces (GAF) and to get closer to our strategic goal – full membership of the North Atlantic Alliance.

Despite Russia’s assertive behavior, which poses a major security challenge to Georgia, our country shows tremendous progress in getting closer to NATO membership and building a country that not only has armed forces that are highly capable and interoperable with the Alliance but also adheres to democratic values and universal rights, and is a reliable partner. Thus, Georgia will continue to adhere to its international commitments related to the provision of global peace and stability and keep its scale of participation in the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission at up to 870 personnel, as well as contribute to operations in Mali and the Central African Republic under the EU’s Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) umbrella.

With the help of our strategic partners, we have been implementing a number of important reforms since 2017. I would like to note that this process is guided by the 3rd Chapter of the founding charter of the North Atlantic Alliance which revolves around NATO’s resilience and the decisions made during the NATO Warsaw Summit. Increasing the level of readiness, and thus ensuring resilience, is my primary objective as Minister of Defense, since enhanced resilience enables us to deter potential foreign aggression and strengthens the defense of the nation.
თავდაცვის მოქმედების უზრუნველყოფაში, პოლიტიკურად, დარგში განთავსდა მრავალფეროვანი "თავისუფალი თავდაცვა" მოქმედი, რაც გევრისში ერთად სახელფუძებად ახდენს მტკიცე, ქვეყანაში ადმინისტრაციული სამედიცინო-ვაკცინაციული გაურთვა, ასევე სამედიცინო-ვაკცინაციული საშუალებები გაუზრუნავთ. "თავისუფალი თავდაცვა" აქვთ გევოლოზში გენერალური თავდაცვის დონის გამართულად და თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალი თავისუფალি 
ვალდებულების შესრულების მიმართულებით საერთაშორისო და უსაფრთხოების გლობალური მშვიდობისათვის საქართველო განაგრძობს.

Global peace and stability.

Georgia receives significant support from its strategic partner, the United States of America. A clear illustration of this support is the implementation of the Georgian Defense Readiness Program (GDRP). Our readers will be interested to learn that, with the help of our American partners, in the coming three years, nine battalions of the GAF will be fully manned, equipped and trained to ensure Georgia’s territorial defense. Under this program, we also plan to develop the Combat Training Center’s capabilities and implement other important institutional measures. Moreover, in terms of US support to improve our defense capabilities, Georgia has acquired "Javelin" anti-tank systems, which is a very important step towards improving the anti-armor capabilities of our armed forces. We also pay particular attention to the gradual improvement of air defense capabilities and, to this end, are in close contact with our French colleagues.

In addition to the GDRP, full implementation of the Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) – a key mechanism of NATO-Georgia cooperation – is of particular significance. I am delighted to state that Georgia has already achieved important milestones here and we underscore our readiness to share this experience with our partner nations. Within the framework of the SNGP initiative on Reception, Staging and Onward Movement of forces we already established the Combat Training Center’s capabilities and, to this end, are in close contact with our French colleagues.
NATO AND GEORGIA:
OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER GOES ON

Rosaria Puglisi
Head of NATO Liaison Office
The relationship between NATO and Georgia has never been stronger than it is today. During his visit to Georgia in 2015, Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg proclaimed “More NATO in Georgia, more Georgia in NATO.” That has indeed proved to be the case. The NATO Liaison Office, established to support Georgia in its efforts to join the Alliance, has expanded consistently since its opening in 2010. It now consists of 14 staff members, including seven diplomats from Allied nations.

The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP), established after the Wales Summit in 2014, is a unique instrument within the NATO structure, aimed at strengthening Georgia’s defense capabilities and developing closer security cooperation and interoperability with NATO members. At the SNGP, experts from 26 Allied and two partner nations provide the Georgian government with the highest level of expertise in diverse areas such as cyber defence, strategic communications, aviation and air defence and maritime security.

The flagship of the SNGP, the Joint Training and Evaluation Center (JTEC), was inaugurated in 2015. Its mission is to

"t's been just over a year since I came back to Georgia to assume my NATO duties, first as a Deputy Head and then, as of January this year, as Head of the NATO Liaison Office. I had worked in Georgia previously, for three years from September 2008 to August 2011.

Coming back, I admit that I have been impressed by the remarkable changes that I have observed in this country. Georgia is a dynamic country; it never stands still. Georgian society is vibrant, stimulating, demanding and ambitious; it has all the features needed to produce positive changes. We have seen this in the consolidation of its democratic institutions and the strengthening of the country's defense capacity, as well as in the construction of new infrastructure, the adoption of new technologies, the development of its tourism industry, and the production of excellent wine.

There is no doubt in my mind that the steadfast course of current and previous governments towards Euro-Atlantic integration has given a strong impetus for such transformations. Georgia is seeking the place it deserves in the family of European nations where democracy, human rights and the rule of law prevail. This is an objective that has found wide support in the political arena. Most importantly, the people of Georgia strongly favour this policy too. Two out of three Georgians want NATO membership and over 70 percent support their country’s integration into the EU. This overwhelming enthusiasm should, however, not be taken for granted. We understand that key stakeholders in this process, including us in NATO, must use every opportunity to demonstrate and explain the tangible benefits of Euro-Atlantic integration.

MORE NATO IN GEORGIA

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Georgia and NATO | საქართველო და ნატო

During the first two years of full operation, approximately 10,000 military personnel have received training at the JTEC, including troops headed for international operations, like Afghanistan. Another important element of the SNGP is the Defence Institution Building School in Tbilisi where more than 1,000 government officials have undertaken trainings. Despite having only operated for three years, these two institutions have already proved successful.

NATO’s visibility in Georgia has also increased dramatically during the last few years. The first Georgian-led NATO military exercise took place in 2016 and another one is scheduled to take place in 2019. The North Atlantic Council, NATO’s highest political authority, convened in Georgia in 2016, as did the NATO Military Committee and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in 2017. These are only a few of the many high-profile NATO-related events that have taken place recently.

MORE GEORGIA IN NATO

The Government of Georgia has worked hard to bolster the NATO-Georgia relationship. Georgia’s contribution to the Resolute Support Mission will never be underappreciated. Currently, 870 Georgian soldiers are serving in Afghanistan, making Georgia one of the top overall contributors to the mission. NATO is indeed grateful for the sacrifice Georgia is making for the cause of international security, be it in Afghanistan, Kosovo or participating in the NATO Response Force. In return, Georgia’s armed forces acquire valuable military experience, boosting Georgia’s defense capabilities. Recent reforms in the defense sector undertaken by the Government will further contribute to a more robust and capable armed forces.

NATO continues to unequivocally support Georgia’s territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We consider Abkhazia and South Ossetia as integral parts of Georgia and we call on Russia to reverse its recognition of the territories and to withdraw its forces from Georgian territory.

NATO and Georgia are now looking into areas where our already fruitful cooperation can be strengthened even further. Security in the Black Sea is one of these areas. The Black Sea is of great importance for the regional security and stability. The Black Sea is one of the areas where our interest is most aligned with NATO’s. The Black Sea is a significant area for Georgia’s national security interests and our strategic partners and NATO are equally interested in ensuring its security. The enhanced cooperation with NATO also means enhanced interoperability of the Georgian armed forces, enabling them to work alongside forces from NATO members and partners and offer multi-national training and exercise opportunities. During the first two years of full operation, approximately 10,000 military personnel have received training at the JTEC, including troops headed for international operations, like Afghanistan.
Commander in Georgia in May. These are the tangible signs that we are moving forward in this area.

Ours Journey Together Continues

Thinking about relations between Georgia and NATO only in military terms would be a mistake. NATO is also a political organization and its work with partners is also aimed at helping them consolidate their democratic institutions. With the Annual National Plan (ANP), Georgia has a platform to present, discuss and ask for NATO member countries' advice on the conducting of its reforms. The ANP covers various areas including the judiciary, the rule of law or the fight against corruption. We attach particular importance to issues related to the democratic control and the accountability of defense and security sectors. In this context, we are working closely with parliament to help it to increase its capacity to monitor the activities of security and defense institutions.

Just like Georgia's development after enduring periods of turmoil and economic hardship, the NATO-Georgia relationship is also a success story. A lot has been achieved so far. With the Allies' support, Georgia has progressed economically and socially and it has enhanced its defensive capabilities greatly. Georgia has all the practical tools to prepare for its eventual membership in the Alliance. The Georgian government must remain vigilant in its pursuit of Euro-Atlantic integration, carrying out the necessary reforms and making sure that the proceeds of its work reach the whole population. At the same time, NATO stands ready to continue giving Georgia the support that it needs as our journey together goes on.
2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the First Republic of Georgia. On May 26, 1918 a new chapter of the Georgian history started with the aim of building modern, democratic state. Liberating from Russian hostile political influence and building effective state institutions were absolutely critical in order to achieve the ultimate goal and take the well-deserved place within the democratic world. Although a century has passed, the above-mentioned goals are relevant and still represent the major foreign policy priority of modern Georgia.

Complexity of making foreign policy choice and fight for defending its sovereign decisions has always accompanied the history of Georgian statehood. Throughout the centuries Georgia has constantly faced the dilemma of foreign policy orientation – East or West – the decision has always been unequivocal – the West. Even in the middle ages the leaders of Roman and later Byzantine Empires have been closely cooperating with Georgian political leaders and often forming military-political alliances. Georgia has always been perceived as an eastern gate of the Western civilization. One of the primary missions of Georgia was to neutralize the threats emanating from East and South, thus protecting European states from different security challenges.

Across the centuries the links connecting Georgia to the Western world have been often suspended due to various circumstances, however this has not inhibited Georgia’s strive towards the West. This policy has been further validated by the diplomatic mission of the famous Georgian diplomat and statesman Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani, who dispatched to France at the beginning of 18th century. This mission is a vivid demonstration of Georgia’s explicit stance of seeking security guarantees and political-military alliances with European powers while being surrounded by hostile nations.
საქართველოს და ნატო | საქართველო და ნატო

სამა იტანით ისიდენტიფიცირება მისი ვრცელობა მე-18 საუკუნის დასაწყისში. ამ პირობებით დასაფლავი გახდები, რომ მე-18 საუკუნეში, გულისხმით სამოქმედო საპატრიოტულ საერთაშორისო ქალაქებში და სამეტროპოლიტურ ქალაქებში ყველა ცნობილი სამოქმედო პროტესტზე ჰქონდა.

სახელმწიფოში, რომ დიდგამად სამოქალაქო მოქმედებათ ჰოშანი, გან- ვლით ერთგვარების ჩვეულებაში ქართული, გამოიცნოს ქვეყნის მოსამსარშტოვლამდე ადგილის ქვაყონსასმენთა სამოქმედო და პოლიტიკურ ქალაქებში დასაფლავი.

თავისუფლება და დამოკიდებულების მონაწილეობით ქართ- ულმა მოქმედ ერთმანეთის პოლიტიკა დღის ნუსკას საპა- ტრატიის გაკავშირებით ვეღარად. საუნარ პროპ. სამაჯაროები ჩვეულებაში შეიარაღა, სამი ლანთალო უმაღლესი თავისუფლება აღწერილი. იმის დროს როცა სამოქალაქო ბრძოლა გამოიწვა, თანამედროვე ვრცელ სოციალ- უნივერსულ მომხარება და სხვა გამოხატავება. სისწრაფით, ისთვის იმის დროს როცა სამოქალაქო ბრძოლა გამოიწვა, თანამედროვე ვრცელ სოციალ- უნივერსულ მომხარება და სხვა გამოხატავება.

1921 წლის შემდეგ მისმა კონსტიტუციამ შემუშავდა საპატრიოტულ კუთვნილება გამოიწვა, რომ ადმინისტრაციულ, საქართ- ულმა საპატრიოტულ საქართ- ულ ორგანოების აღმართმევა უმაღლესთა სოციალ- უნივერსული მომხარება ჰქონდა, რომ მოქალაქე საქართ- ულ ორგანოების აღმართმევა უმაღლესთა სოციალ- უნივერსული მომხარება ჰქონდა.
Georgia and NATO

“...A decision approving Georgia’s membership would show that the alliance is ready to embrace the ambitions of this aspirant country.”

Nevertheless, as the 20% of the territories suffer from the Russian occupation and conventional or hybrid threats challenge the security of the country, Georgia firmly stands as a reliable partner of the alliance in the process of protecting international peace and security. Georgian soldiers shoulder to shoulder with the NATO member states’ militaries defend peace and stability far from our borders either in Afghanistan or in Africa. Through the active engagement in international operations, Georgia clearly demonstrates that with NATO membership it will not only enjoy the benefits of collective defense, but also it will be the valuable provider of shared security.

To reiterate, Georgia is firmly committed to the democratic transformation path and despite multiple challenges the society steadily maintains political consensus regarding the western foreign policy orientation. Outcomes of the reforms have been widely recognized by numerous reputable international organizations, and the country has been named as a flagship of democratic transformation. Enthusiasm of Georgia in terms of meeting necessary standards is absolutely undisputable and is reinforced by wider public support to the course of NATO integration. Respectively, the decision on Georgia’s membership will validate that the Alliance is ready to embrace the ambitions of the aspirant country, thus remain committed to its own decisions.
SUPPORTING STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION ON EUROPEAN AND EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION
Strategic communication on Georgia’s European and Euro-Atlantic integration demands a systematic approach from the Government, especially due to the security challenges the country is facing today. Handling this issue successfully also requires consolidation of both - the political establishment and civil society. Taking concrete steps in this direction is very important.

A project being implemented by the Georgian Center for Security and Development (GCSD) serves the above-mentioned purpose. We hope to contribute to overcoming existing challenges by providing the Government with specific recommendations based on research, and ensuring the engagement of highly qualified international experts.
The relevance of the project emanates from the widespread and consistent anti-western propaganda that has been strengthening as Georgia deepens its ties with the European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.

To address this problem, the Georgian government has been establishing strategic communication departments within certain ministries since 2015. It also approved the Communication Strategy on Georgia’s Membership to the EU and NATO for 2017-2020 on April 13, 2017. However, while conducting strategic communication, government and local self-government bodies still face complex challenges.

It should be noted that much of the discussion being held around the topic of Georgia’s European and Euro-Atlantic integration are mostly focused on the feasible steps of the integration process, and less on the tangible benefits (e.g. in terms of education, economy, defense, security, etc.) that regular citizens are already getting as a result of this process.

The GCSD is implementing a 20-month-long “Government of Georgia Strategic Communications Program”, supported by the US Embassy in Tbilisi through its Public Affairs section. The project aims to enhance the strategic communication capacity of the Government and ensure its efficiency by elaborating specific recommendations on strategic communication policy planning and coordination mechanisms.

To this end, the “Government of Georgia Strategic Communications Program” envisages various activities. The project’s key aim is
to prepare training modules based on the needs of respective governmental institutions. Trainings will be conducted by distinguished international experts and will include case-study training, simulations, and trainings of trainers, etc. Trainings will be attended by decision-makers and practitioners.

Local self-government representatives will also be involved in training sessions from the regions of Adjara, Guria, Imereti, Samegrelo, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Shida Kartli. Special attention will be devoted to the communication methods utilized for segments of our society that are most vulnerable to anti-Western myths and disinformation.

As part of the project, the GCSD will deliver a policy document based on a desk research, analyzing government-approved documents related to strategic communication, encompassing the best international practices in strategic communication, and conducting interviews with decision-makers as well as experts and representatives of civil society.

The Georgian Center for Security and Development (GCSD) is a non-partisan, non-governmental consultancy organization established in 2015 by Levan Dolidze, former Georgian Ambassador to NATO.

The GCSD strives to support Georgia's national security, to strengthen principles of effective and democratic governance and to assist in creating conditions for sustainable development.

For more information: www.gcsd.org.ge
March 28 of 2018 marks the first anniversary since the introduction of visa-free travel to EU/Schengen area states for the citizens of Georgia. Visa-free regime is one of the most tangible achievements on the path of Georgia’s European integration and a major step in its striving to return to the European family.

During this one year, Georgian citizens have crossed the EU border visa-free for more than 250 thousand times, which is yet another confirmation of the efficiency with which our country takes advantage of the visa-free travel regime.

The citizens of Georgia gained the unique opportunity to travel to Europe without any hindrance for tourism, enhancing business contacts, strengthening educational, scientific and cultural relations. It is particularly noteworthy that all benefits related to visa-free travel are available for the citizens of Georgia, living in the occupied regions.

Along with practical benefits, the visa-free travel has an enormous political significance for Georgia, the EU and its member-states recognized Georgia as a reliable partner and declared firm support to the European aspirations of our country.

On its path toward visa-free regime with EU, Georgia has implemented essential reforms in terms of bringing its legislation in line with the European norms and standards, and continues to fulfill the assumed obligations. This was confirmed by the European Commission first report on the visa liberalisation, published on 20 December 2017, which positively assesses the efforts by the Government of Georgia in implementation of visa liberalization requirements.

Along with providing the country with significant benefits, visa-free travel to EU/Schengen area states also represents a major...
Georgia and EU | საქართველო და ევროკავშირი

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

The overwhelming majority of the asylum-seeking requests by the Georgian citizens are not approved, since Georgia is the country where human rights are protected and democratic standards uphold. Eight countries of the Schengen zone recognize Georgia as a “safe country of origin”, where people are not persecuted for their race, religion, ethnicity, social affiliation or political views. Therefore, applications for asylum from Georgia are processed through simplified procedure (in some cases it may take only few days), and almost all the decisions are negative.

It is important for the citizens of Georgia to be well informed about the regulations of travel to EU/Schengen area states, as well as their own rights and obligations. We need to realize that in case of violation of visa-free regime, it is going to result not only in individual responsibility, but also it will risk triggering a suspension mechanism for the entire country.

In order to raise public awareness about visa-free travel, the Government of Georgia has launched a wide scale information campaign with the firm support of EU Delegation and EU member states as well as in close cooperation with the civil society and the Patriarchy of Georgia. The third wave of the information campaign was launched in March of 2018 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with active engagement of the Information Centre on NATO and EU. Within the framework of the campaign, meetings are held with the population in Tbilisi and the regions, with information being actively spread through various communication channels, including social media, TV, print media and other means.

The goal of the Government of Georgia is to be well informed about the regulations of travel to EU/Schengen area states, as well as their own rights and obligations. We need to realize that in case of violation of visa-free regime, it is going to result not only in individual responsibility, but also it will risk triggering a suspension mechanism for the entire country.

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მიხეილ ხიდურელი
კომპანია SavvY Education-ის პარტნიორი
Mikheil Khidureli
Partner, SavvY Consulting

OSM6449-ის სურათით

ვენეციაში საძოვრო სისტემის თარგითაც გადაწყვეტა უკანასკნელ სახელმწიფოს დანიშნავ კონცეფტი “გეოგრაფიული ბანკი”-სახელი

SAVVY'S EUROPEAN STANDARD FUTURE INVESTMENT PROJECTS
Much of the opportunity is obvious such as mass residential real estate, hydropower, and agriculture. For certain investors, these areas are well worth taking a risk in. At SavvY, rather than guiding our clients and partners towards the obvious but crowded or risky markets, we have sought more certain value in what we see as latent demand. This philosophy is rooted in the rigorous and continuous study of Georgia and comparable markets that our day-to-day consulting activities cover. The insight is, in fact, quite simple – as the economic tide rises for Georgians, and as more visitors arrive, there will inevitably be opportunities to provide goods and services that consumers simply didn’t know existed.

This philosophy is rooted in the rigorous and continuous study of Georgia and comparable European markets like Baltic Countries and Eastern Europe. Based on European Trend analysis we have identified the future market movement and have created projects that are founded on European Standards and development trends.

Consider, for example, the student population in Tbilisi: in a city of 1.2 million, there are roughly 110,000 university students from Georgia and another 10,000 from abroad. For such a significant segment of the population, there are only 500 official dormitory beds, all of which are substandard according to our surveys. Even accounting for the fact that roughly half of the student population lives with their family, and the fact that students are typically a low-income segment, that still leaves roughly half of the student population who are forced to rent private apartments year-to-year. This presents two considerable opportunities. First, there...
is the possibility of providing reasonably priced housing with a social/community element that defines the university experience. Secondly, a reliable, long-term cash flow, with the added bonus of culture-driven real estate appreciation; the example of Fabrika (Multifunctional space packed with artist studios, shops, cafe-bars, hostel and co-working space) displays quite nicely how such a concept could be leveraged into a center of culture and commerce.

At the opposite end of the income spectrum, we have identified another opportunity, catering to the aspirations of Georgia’s emerging middle and upper-income families. There is no need to tell Georgians about the significance of the vineyard; having vines and homemade wine is a major source of pride for those who can afford the luxury of their own private vineyard. Yet, for most of Georgia’s middle and upper-income households, having a vineyard is unfeasible because they spend the bulk of their time in the city and/or lack the necessary expertise or resources. The obvious solution to providing this seemingly unattainable luxury is to lower the knowledge and resource barriers to vineyard ownership by making something large-scale. This rationale led us to our business plan for a vineyard village in Kakheti’s Alazani Valley. The concept entails the construction of 100 private houses on a 40 hectare plot, each with its own vineyard. A condominium service company takes care of the details, and buyers will simply have to decide who to invite to the Rtveli harvest festival.

On the other side of the country in Batumi on the Black Sea, we are offering an opportunity to tap into one of the coastal city’s most appealing elements – fresh, plentiful, and conveniently available fish. Despite Batumi’s location on the coast, tourists and locals cannot easily or pleasantly access seafood in markets or restaurants. This is not for a lack of fish, but for a lack of capital investment and logistics; the four commercial fishing license holders in the area do not prioritize the delivery of fish to the retail market in Batumi, but rather supply by-catch. In Batumi itself, the main outlet for fresh seafood is its unsightly fish market, situated quite a distance from the city center. We therefore propose an integrated solution,
combining a fishery with the logistics to supply a new fish market, with processing facilities and restaurants on-site. Considering the year-round influx of Russians and Ukrainian tourists – both from nations with strong seafood culture – this opportunity promises to be a real hit. Moreover, the facility would increase the potential of exporting to neighboring markets in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Lastly, in Tbilisi, we are offering an opportunity to invest in the capital’s first eco-housing community. While the “green” branding concept has gained traction in local real estate, no development has truly delivered a green lifestyle, which is increasingly appealing to Tbilisi’s emerging middle and upper-income society. Our project, on the Bagebi ridge beneath the prestigious Kaklebi neighborhood, promises to be a truly green and clean housing complex, just a 10-minute drive from central Tbilisi. This project of 60-70 units will be committed to a truly green lifestyle by providing residents with a walled-off communal green space overlooking a canyon, 100% solar-electric sufficiency (on net), and a private gym, among other features.

We believe these examples illustrate neatly how understanding the ways in which needs, preferences and lifestyles are changing according to rising incomes can provide valuable insights and opportunities. We welcome all investors interested in getting ahead of the curve to join us in turning these deep insights into profitable reality.

Info: http://savvy.ge
ევროკავშირის მხარდაჭერით აღდგენილი გუდის ყველის წარმოების ტრადიცია თუშეთში: კოოპერატივ "ალაზნისთავის" ისტორია

"ჩემი მთავარი მიღწევაა ის, რომ უკვე მივიწყებული ტრადიცია აღვადგინე. ეს აუცილებლად გაგრძელდება, ამას უკვე აღარაფერი შეუშლის ხელს".

"გიორგი დიამანიშვილი აცხადებს, რომ უკვე თუშეთში ტრადიციული მეჩეთის ადგილზე, იმ მასშტაბზე, რდისთომის წლის ბოლომდე მუშაობდა, ბოლო უკვე სოციალური წარმოებები გაიმართა“. 

Photo story | ფოტოისტორია
TRADITION OF GUDA CHEESE PRODUCTION COMES ALIVE IN TUSHETI WITH EU SUPPORT – THE STORY OF THE “ALAZNISTAVI” CO-OPERATIVE

“My greatest achievement is that I have revived an almost forgotten tradition. Now this will continue and nothing will hamper the process.”

A laznistavi farm is located some 2,100 meters above sea level in the village of the same name, far from highways and spread out across traditional grazing land, the co-operative is surrounded by stunningly preserved pine forests and ancient villages in ruins. Members of the co-operative make Tushetian cheese “Guda” the old-fashioned way.

Nomadic sheep breeding has long been a traditional occupation for people of Tusheti and has played a role in the development of the local culture. The technology of Tushetian guda cheese production has been passed down from generation to generation. Matured in a guda – a traditional Georgian sack made from sheep or veal skin – the cheese boasts a truly distinct and unique flavor.

In the past few decades, this centuries-old tradition has been replaced by plastic bags. Unfortunately, in the process, the cheese has lost its unique taste.

Chairman of the “Alaznistavi” co-operative Paata Abuladze adores Tusheti and its traditions, and he has ancestral roots in the region dating back centuries. He rekindled his own connection to the region over 50 years ago.
Abuladze’s family today lives in the Kakhetian village of Avani. Today, only border guards and some 10-12 families live permanently in Tusheti. Most live in the village of Omalo, while the other 60 villages in the region are populated only during the warmer seasons.

Families return to Tusheti to manage guesthouses and other tourist facilities, and to graze sheep in the summer. Paata also visits Tusheti on a seasonal basis.

He has practiced many professions and was involved in sheep-breeding for several years during his studies. After completing basic training in the army, he studied veterinary medicine and furthered his studies in cattle-breeding.

Later, he began producing and selling meat, and for this purpose he moved to Georgia’s capital, Tbilisi. But the bustling city life did not suit him, and he wanted to return to rural life to continue cattle-breeding. At the same time, Paata kept an eye on market developments.

Observing over a long period of time, Paata realized that there was a demand for organic products. After thinking carefully about several options open to him, he decided to revive the Tushetian tradition of Guda cheese-making, which had long gone out of style.

“‘I have been involved in agricultural activities for years. While in Tusheti, I helped shepherds and accordingly I perfectly knew how to make traditional guda cheese,’ noted Paata.

Enthusiastic about his idea, Paata acquainted himself with the appropriate legislation on food production and food safety standards. With this in mind, he decided to build a co-operative where his production of guda cheese would be in compliance with international standards.
In 2015, Paata established an agricultural co-operative in Alaznistavi with the help of the EU-funded project "Supporting Agricultural Cooperation in Georgia" implemented by Oxfam under the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agricultural and Rural Development (ENPARD). With the EU’s support, Paata was ready to make his next move.

The alpine and sub-alpine conditions of the local terrain in Tusheti make it ideal for the production of Tushetian Guda cheese. A production farm co-operative was also established there, where farmers produce cheese from sheep and milk from cows.

Paata did not need to consider any other location to produce his cheese.

“The only place where it is possible to make guda cheese is in Tusheti. The village is distinct because of its medieval origins and rock-dwellings, which are like refrigerators. There is a specific species of grass that grows here, and the difference between night and day-time temperatures is minimal. All of these factors leads to the highest quality of cheese production.”

The majority of “Alaznistavi” members are from Tusheti and are involved personally in the daily activities of the co-operative.

As of today, the co-operative has 11 members. The majority of them have their roots in Tusheti, but, like Paata, are also from Alvani. Some of the initial co-op members brought their wives in to help, and three women are now permanently involved in the co-op’s activities.

It was not difficult for Paata and his friends to adjust to the peculiarities of making guda cheese. In centuries past, sheep-breeding and Guda cheese making were the main activities of Tushetian men. Generally, the work was too intense for one man to handle, and so seven or eight people were involved in the enterprise. Today, the agricultural co-operative serves the same function, and has the added bonus of being officially registered.

The European Union allocated grant assistance worth over 98,500 GEL to the co-operative. In partnership with Oxfam, Paata’s cheese-production factory was built for the co-op with appropriate lighting and heating systems. The co-op members underwent trainings organized by Oxfam and the Biological Farming Association ELKANA, which helped them to better manage their business.

Members of the co-op are responsible for taking care of the sheep and cows, making cheese and gathering firewood.

“If you are not personally involved in these activities, it becomes more difficult to achieve your goal,”—Paata says.

The cheese produced from spring to late summer is stored in cool stores. At the end of August, the sheep are sheared and sent to pasture. Meanwhile, co-operative members collect enough food and wood for the shepherds to last them through the cold seasons. From September,
they start transporting cheese from Tusheti to Kakheti. Taking into account the fact that “Alaznistavi” warehouse is located some distance away, on traditional grazing land, first the horses take the produced cheese to the highway and then it is transported by vehicle.

As of today, the co-operative owns about 600 cattle. Some of them are owned by the co-operative members. If this amount of cattle is not enough for production, co-operative members borrow animals from people who have animals but are not able to send them to graze and milk them. Alaznistavi has sufficient resources for these activities.

**THE GROWTH IN PRODUCTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE, EXPORTS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF BIO STANDARDS**

The production of the co-operative has increased significantly in the last three years. Today, ten tons of cheese are annually produced by the plant with the possibility of increasing output to 20 tons in the near future. The co-operative does not have to pay additional expenses as they have their own animals and produce milk themselves.

“Our product is in high demand and we do not find it difficult to sell it. We have not entered the supermarkets as we still do not have the proper resources to produce a high amount of cheese to supply the supermarkets systematically. However, we have acquired smaller trading networks, various small markets – we have private customers and also sell our cheese online.” - says Paata.
After information was spread about Alaznistavi, cheese producers in Tusheti became interested in traditional cheese-making technology. Profit is one of their motivations, given that profits from the production of such cheese is about 30 percent higher. Also, it is easier to attract investors to traditional cheese-making and, accordingly, funding sources are more accessible. There are farmers who have already started producing guda cheese, while many of them plan to change their practices in the future. During a recent seminar conducted by Swiss experts, about 50 percent of guda cheese producers claimed they were going to replace the plastic bag method with traditional production.

Alaznistavi often participates in various festivals and exhibitions. Some of the production is exported to the United States. Significantly, there is growing interest towards guda cheese in Japan, Israel and various European countries. However, there are some challenges which must be overcome in terms of introducing bio-standard regulations in the manufacturing process.

There is also another aspect in which the implementation of bio-standards is required.

“My big wish is to winter at least 300-400 sheep, to have the chance to take animals to nearby pastures, milk them there and not to be forced to come into town. The sheep also suffer during transportation, during which time they have to cover about 300-400 km: they go from Tusheti to Kakheti, then arrive at the Azerbaijani border where they spend winter and eat grass poisoned with pesticides. As a result the sheep become ill with different diseases. The climate, land and grass are the best in Tusheti. There, sheep can graze in places where man has not yet stepped. This is a perfect environment for producing organic products,” – noted Paata.
თან, ას რომ, ჩანაწერიდან გამოყოფილი სრული ეთმობომის გამოკვლევით "ალაზნისტა-ღონისძიები" საქართველოში მდინარეთა გზების ჩამოთვლაში. თუმცა ჩვენი მოქმედების დაწყების შემდეგ, იმამდე, რომ ცალკეული მოქმედებები უნდა განხორცილონ ჩვენებრივ უდრობილობით. ამიტომ ერთ-ერთმ ძირითადი მიზანია გამოყოფა, რომელიც უსაფრთხოდ აღიარავს არც ჰქონდა სრული განხორცილებით. ამასთან, მიზნისგან შეგვიძლია შექმნილი მდგომარეობის მხრივ გამოყოფით არა დამხმარეობის უფლების რეგულირებით, საქმის შემადგენლობის, გარემო უშუალოდ თანამიჯნობით გამოყოფილი გამოყოფით, თუმცა სხვა შეიხების მიუხედავად, უფრო უმნიშვნელოვანი მიზნის შესწავლა სრული განხორცილება. ამასთან, ინვესტორებს შორის გაგზავნილი გამოყოფის ხანგრძლივობა, უფრო კი მდგომარეობს მონაწილეობაში გამოყოფის შემთხვევაში. მექანიზმებით ოპერაციების მიხედვით საქმის შემადგენლობის დახმარებით 50 პროცენტი ამოიღებენ, რომელიც საშუალო მარაგებების შესამჩნევად გამოყოფილი შესაბამისობით. საქართველოში "ალაზნისტა-ღონისძიები" ხმისფრთხილობის სხვადასხვა ფორმაში გამოყოფილი ოთხ წლის განმავლობაში. პროექტის ბოლო სწორედ მიმდინარეობა გადადგა მხრივ გამოყოფის ოპერაციებში, მხარის ღირებულებისა და ვენეციის დაქცევა. ტრეინინგი გამოყოფილი ბიზნესის წესებში ჩვენმა მიემართა. მისი ჩაწერილი უფლები ჰქონდა პირადი სახით მასწავლებელთა მქონე ყოფილ ფაქტოში. მისი ჩაწერილი უფლები ჰქონდა პირადი სახით მასწავლებელთა მქონე ყოფილ ფაქტოში. ამჟამად ბოლომდე ჩამოსაცავად ქალაქის ჩამოსაცავად ქალაქის შემთხვევაში ხარისხიანი გაფიგო, — ამბროშები შეიძლო.
ფოტოისტორია

Photo story | ფოტოისტორია

მოსახლე იურები იურებს ადგილობრივი პარკის რეზერვაციაში და ადგილობრივი იურების რეზერვაციაში ადგილობრივი იურების რეზერვაციაში

გეორგიაში გეფორტიზაცია, დაუღწურს გერმანიის და ფრანგის მემორიალს. ქართული იურები, რომლებიც გამოირჩევია გერმანიის და ფრანგის მემორიალებში. 2015 წლის ივლისთან თანახმად, ფოტოგრაფია შეისწავლის ქართული ეთოპიური ხარჯები. ახალი გერმანიის მხარეთა და ფრანგის მემორიალები. 2015 წლის ივლისთან თანახმად, ფოტოგრაფია შეისწავლის ქართული ეთოპიური ხარჯები.

სურათი | Photo

სურათი | Photo
About 70 percent of the work has already been done to develop and promote geographic indications (GIs) and other origin-based labels for guda cheese, which is supported by the European Union (EU) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), in partnership with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Also, an association of Guda cheese producers has been established, the main goal of which is to unite guda cheese producers, revive traditional cheese-making technology and protect the GIs of Tushetian Guda cheese.

"Alaznistavi" is also interested in agro-tourism. Paata and his friends regularly host tourists from different countries and introduce them to the specifics of Guda cheese-making. The co-operative plans to develop in this direction as well.

Reviving tradition is the biggest achievement to date for "Alaznistavi". It is also notable that production has been increasing and improving daily. In 2015, only 30 percent of the cheese produced by the co-operative was Guda cheese but today the co-operative is involved exclusively in the production of Guda cheese.

Despite many challenges, the main wish of Paata is to properly utilize the advantages offered by Tusheti region.

"As soon as the grass grows and the smell of spring is in the air, I am down to the village and the cattle have the same feelings also. I would stay in Tusheti during winter if I could as well and would manage the complete production of Tushetian Guda cheese-making there," - says Paata.
EXHIBITION OF GEORGIAN VITICULTURE AND VINICULTURE
AT THE BORDEAUX CENTER OF WINE CIVILIZATION
Last year, from July 31 through November 5, an exhibition was dedicated to Georgian viticulture and viniculture at the Center of Wine Civilization (Cité des Civilisations Du Vin) in Bordeaux, France. Today, Bordeaux is considered as a leading cultural and tourism center and as the capital of wine, which annually hosts more than 6 million tourists.

Unique archeological and ethnographic artifacts from the National Museum of Georgia, which confirm that Georgia is indeed the oldest winemaking country in the world, were exhibited at the Center of Wine Civilization. Various events were held in the exhibition space including scientific conferences, presentations, and professional tastings of wine conducted by world-famous wine experts. In addition, Marjanishvili State Theater play was specially staged for the Bordeaux exhibition and various culinary evenings and thematic events were held during the exhibition.

The screened VR videos showcased several of Georgia’s tourist destinations, modern industrial winemaking, Georgian clay vessel (qvevri) manufacturing, the Georgian wine harvest (rtveli), and the arrangement of a traditional Georgian wine cellar (marani).

As part of the exhibition, two documentaries were produced, which were designed to promote Georgia as a country with a rich ancient culture and to fully showcase the millennia-old history of Georgian viticulture and viniculture. The first, “Georgia—the Universal Cradle of Winemaking”, is based on scientific studies conducted over the course of four years by leading Georgian and international research
institutes and laboratories under multinational and multidisciplinary projects. These studies confirm that Georgia is the oldest winemaking country in the world with a continuous history of viticulture and viniculture spanning 8,000 years. The second film, "The Homeland of Wine", reflects the dynamics of the exhibition in Bordeaux, including the preparation work and activities in the build-up to the exhibition.

The Bordeaux exhibition was a unique opportunity for Georgia to firmly announce and settle its name as an ancient country of the wine civilization. Georgia was presented as the oldest and an organic part of European culture.
ჰარიონის „იუნია გამორჩება სამხრეთი“ გამზირში

ARTWORKS OF THE PROJECT
"LEAVE TO YOUR CITY"
Well begun is half done.