



## REPORT

### Meeting of the Governmental and Non-governmental Structures and Organisations within the Campaign

On 5 December, 2006 was held the meeting of representatives of governmental and non-governmental structures and organisations within the European Youth Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights, and Participation “ALL DIFFERENT – ALL EQUAL”. The meeting was hosted by the *Public Defender’s Office* of Georgia. The participants were from *non-governmental organizations* (youth organizations as well as those with an active youth divisions) and from different *governmental structures* (ministries and the parliamentarian committees). Totally at the meeting were represented twelve (12) non-governmental organizations and four (4) governmental structures.

For the participation were invited the representatives of the *Information Office of the Council of Europe in Tbilisi* Mr. George Jashi and Mr. Shalva Balanchivadze, but due to the technical reasons none of them could attend the meeting. We invited the *Advisor to the President of Georgia on Tolerance Issues* Mr. George Kaldelaki, but he could not attend the meeting as well. The final report as well as the invitation for the next meetings will be sent to them as we consider that their involvement in the working process is very important input for the further success of the Campaign launching in Georgia.

It should be mentioned that informal invitations were sent out through various mailing lists as well as through individual emails. We were aimed at gathering as many as possible representatives of different non-governmental organisations. All those organisations who replied to the initial invitation letter were invited for further introduction and are mentioned as *participants* in this report.

All participants were informed about those basic issues to be discussed at the meeting beforehand and the draft agenda of the meeting was disseminated among those structures and organisations who responded the call for the meeting.

The general purpose of the meeting was the discussion of those difficulties and concerns related with the formation of the *National Campaign Committee (NCC) in Georgia* and the *official launching of the Campaign* in the country. The meeting showed once more that despite of the inactiveness of the relevant governmental structures to make practical steps towards the Campaign launching officially, there is a strong commitment of non-governmental organizations to take all necessary measures for joint activities within the Campaign.



As one of the most proficient and successful ways would be the cooperation among the interested NGOs and governmental structures. The additional impetus for the cooperation would be the further assistance from governmental structures. It should be highlighted that the official launching of the Campaign in Georgia will greatly assist our country's commitment to integrate into European structures. We believe that the Campaign launching will promote tolerance and non-discrimination as the basic for democratic society.

### **The meeting content:**

The meeting was divided into two main parts: *informative* and *action oriented* aspects. The *informative part* of the meeting included the following points: getting know each other, introducing and sharing experiences, general and concrete expectations from the Campaign, a brief introduction to the campaign and particularly the situation in Georgia.

Non-governmental organisations represented at the meeting are very active in the youth field as well as in tolerance promotion and non-discrimination activities at national and regional levels. Accordingly, the information they shared to each other at the meeting was very interesting. It is worthy to mention that the organisations represented at the meeting work on different thematic areas and thus cover almost all issues related to the Campaign themes: *LGBT issues, religious and national minorities, youth empowerment, youth with fewer opportunities, human rights education, youth political leadership, tolerance and non-discrimination, etc.*

The second part of the meeting was more focused on *action oriented aspect* and according to the agenda it covered the issues such: Formation of the working group, concrete further steps and task distribution, drafting the appeal to the Campaign secretariat, discussion of needs in accordance to the local contest, possible roles of the governmental structures, non-governmental organizations and the Council of Europe Information Office in Tbilisi.

Participants listed the following issues as the most prior issues to be addressed within the Campaign in general and particularly by the working group.

- Work on the issues of various minority groups: religious and national minorities were named as the vulnerable groups.
- Cooperation with youth organizations from conflict regions.
- Cooperation with all groups (recognition of cooperation principles, exchanges of information).
- Communication and the sharing of information.
- Human rights promotion in the society through various educational activities still stays as one of the most important challenges of the society.
- Give recommendations in drafting the national concept on tolerance which is being developed by the government of Georgia.
- Increase the youth involvement and civic activism especially in rural areas.
- Address the issue of so called "positive discrimination".
- Participants spoke about the importance to address the factors which causes the problems.



- Particular attention should be made to the people with disabilities as well as to the issues of domestic violence and trafficking.
- Lack of information as well as the lack of analytical information.
- Support from the public and from the governmental structures.
- Cooperation with the NCCs formed in many European countries and with those organizations which are involved in the Campaign activities actively in Europe.
- Lack of resources and particularly the financial resources.
- Increasing the voluntary involvement of organizations.
- Lack of communication with the *State Department on Youth and Sport* was particularly highlighted by the all attendees and the discussed in the context of urgent further actions.

It should be mentioned here, that the draft budget of Georgia for 2007 which was mentioned by the participants does not include any budgetary expenses envisaged for the Campaign activities in Georgia. This fact clearly indicates that we should not expect any special activism in this direction from the *State Department on Youth and Sport* in 2007.

By the end of the meeting participants agreed to form the *Working Group (WG)* which consists by the representatives of those organisations attending the meeting, but it will be open for cooperation and membership for all interested organisations and individuals.

#### **Next Steps:**

As regards the further steps, it has been decided to focus more on planning short term activities for a month period in order to be more efficient and start preparation for the next extended meeting. The participants shared their own resources and possibilities in this direction too. First step would be the dissemination of information about the Campaign and the working group in order to involve more interested and motivated people. For this purpose will be used all existing resources for dissemination the information: leaflets published in Georgian, website of the Union “Century 21” which provides the information about the Campaign in Georgian language and could be easily accessible for the most of people and etc.

In this regard the following activities will be conducted by the participants:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Stage:**

- Preparation and Dissemination of the *Campaign Introductory Letter* through all resources in order to inform as many organisations as possible. (responsible person Khatuna Tsintsadze);
- Information will be announced though regional Radios (responsible person Pridon Patsuria, Association “Droni”);
- Information about the Campaign will be transmitted though internet resources: yahoo groups (responsible person George Kakulia, Academy for Peace and Development); CENN.org (responsible person Paata Sabelashvili, Inclusive Foundation);
- Information meetings at local level in different regions of Georgia (responsible person Natia Giorgidze, “Sunny House”);



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage:

- Preparation of the appeal to the president of Georgia
- Preparation of the appeal to the State Department on Youth and Sport of Georgia.
- Strengthen contacts with established NCCs in other European countries.
- Preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> WG Meeting by the end of February, 2007.

### **The list of attendees of the meeting:**

1. Khatuna Tsintsadze, *The Union "Century 21"*
2. Tornike Makharadzei, *"Young Republican Institute"*
3. Paata Sabelashvili, *"Inclusive Foundation"*
4. Salome Sabelashvili, *"Foundation of Development Human Resources"*
5. Pridon Patsuria, *Association "Droni"*
6. Salome Shashashenidze, *the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia*
7. Tea Tarielashvili, *Parliamentarian Committee on European Integration*
8. Khatia Berdzenishvili, *International Union "Ertoba"*
9. Kakhaber Lomadze, *"Student-Youth Council SYC"*
10. George Kikalishvili, *Association "Droni"*
11. George Kakulia, *"Academy for Peace and Development"*
12. Tea Bulia, *Association "Atinati"*
13. Natia Giorgidze, *Youth Center "Sunny House"*
14. Magdalina Bibichadze, *Youth Network Against Discrimination and Intolerance*
15. Eka Kemularia, *Parliamentarian Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration*
16. Koba Chopliani, *Office of Public Defender of Georgia*
17. Lela Bekauri, *"Georgian Young Lawyers Association" (Rustavi office)*

The following individuals representing organisations active in the youth field and non-discrimination activities joined the WG later:

1. Irina Tkeshelashvili, *"Youth for Civil Development"*
2. Lela Kartvelishvili, *ICCN*
3. Dato Metreveli, *Kvemo Kartli Organisation of the Scout Movement*

**all different  
all equal**

**ყველა განსხვავებული  
ყველა თანასწორი**

Pic 1: Materials produced within the Campaign and delivered by George Kikalishvili

