



Country profile

Georgia

Last profile update: September 2018, by **Ms. Gunia-Kuznetsova**

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Georgia

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1. Historical perspective: cultural policies and instruments

Following the October Revolution of 1917, the Republic of Georgia emerged as an independent democratic state. While independence was short lived (1918-1921), it was an important period during which the foundations for cultural policy were established. The main aims of Georgian cultural policy were to introduce democratic processes and to preserve national identity. An important achievement was the opening of the State University (1918) as a centre for scientific and cultural life.

The period of Soviet influence was as dramatic in Georgia as in other Republics of the Soviet Union. Stalin's rule (1929-1953) was characterised as a period of unconditional and implicit power over the official culture and ideology. Brezhnev's time in office (1964-1981) was considered a period of cultural stagnation. While the grip of Stalin's totalitarian system loosened, a conflict began to emerge within Georgia between the Communist system and the proponents of a Georgian national culture. Following perestroika, this conflict intensified, not only between the communistic bureaucracy and the national liberation movement but also between Soviet culture and Georgian culture based on non-ideological arts.

During this period, two events had a dramatic effect on the development and establishment of contemporary Georgian culture and identity. In 1978, following the adoption of a new Soviet constitution in Moscow, a proposal was put forward to change the constitutional status of the Georgian language as the official language of Georgia, which met with mass protest. These marches led to the formation of the national liberation movement and the April 9th 1989 anti-Soviet demonstration which was quashed by the Soviet army and led to several tragic deaths.

The paternalistic cultural policy pursued by the Soviet Union did have some positive influences on Georgian culture. It created an extensive network and well-functioning infrastructure of public cultural institutions; a well-shaped and widely accessible academic system of education supporting the arts and science; high culture, which was understood as a neutral link in state building; and a growth in mass culture consumption. Despite the ideological influences of official Soviet culture - *nationalist* in its shape and *socialist* in its content - there were some important creative achievements in Georgian theatre, cinema, art and music, created by outstanding artists and cultural professionals. These achievements helped to develop an understanding of culture as a system of values which determines and forms national identity and, as a result, unites the nation.

The post-Soviet period in the history and cultural development of Georgia is complicated and contradictory. Elections were held in 1990 and on April 9th 1991 the Parliament of Georgia unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence (under the first Georgian president Zviad Gamsakhurdia) which established the Republic of Georgia as a new independent state. Between 1991 and 1992, Georgia lost control over the region of Inner Kartli, formerly the South-Ossetian Autonomous Territory, the Tbilisi War broke out and the government of Gamsakhurdia was overthrown. Edward Shevardnadze came to power (March 1992) and the political situation stabilised. Peace was established in Georgia and there was an increased drive towards building a new state. This did not last long, however. Supporters of the former president Gamsakhurdia engaged in successful military operations in Abkhazia. On September 27th 1993, Georgian authorities lost control over almost all of the territory of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic.

During the period 1993-2003, Georgia faced financial problems and engaged in a political overhaul aimed at balancing national and liberal-democratic ideas. The cultural infrastructure that remained from the Soviet period required reform. Cultural policy in Georgia had no clear strategic focus, even though it was declared as one of the state's priorities. Support for the arts was the extent of the reach of the state's policies.

The Rose Revolution took place on 23rd November 2003, after which President Shevardnadze retired. Since 2004, the country has been undergoing continuous reforms, including those of a constitutional nature.

During the period 1990-2004, Georgia had 6 different Ministers of Culture. Since 2004, cultural affairs, sports and youth affairs have been combined into one Ministry. Structural changes within the Ministry are ongoing.

Georgia has experienced many political and socio-cultural changes during the 20th century. Those which occurred over the past 25 years were the result of revolution and conflict; the most recent in the territory of so-called South Ossetia, and the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic (August 2008). Given these developments, it has been extremely difficult to install a sustainable system of policy development. In the field of culture, it has indeed prevented the creation and implementation of a long-term cultural strategy.

In October 2012 Parliamentary elections were held whereupon the power for the first time was handed over peacefully.

2. General objectives and principles of cultural policy

2.1 Main features of the current cultural policy model

The development of cultural policy in Georgia over the past 20 years (1990-2012) can be characterised by 4 distinct stages (even though they are unequal in duration and character):

The first stage (1990-1992), was a period of rebuilding an independent Georgian state and was characterised by contradictions and dramatic events. Changes were initiated in the framework of the persisting Soviet style system. The model of cultural policy chosen by the first national government was aimed at creating a separate Georgian policy for culture.

The second stage (1993-2003), can be even further divided into: a) a period of war and devastation (1992-1994) when the entire state policy was aimed at struggling against centrifugal trends and therefore could not pursue a purposeful cultural policy; b) a period of formation of state structures in territories controlled by the state (1995-99) with a neutrally homogenous policy; c) a period (2000-2003) anticipating the foundation of a decentralisation policy.

On the one hand, in 2001 amendments were made to the *Law on Local Administration and Self-government (1997)* which reinforced decentralisation, and on the other hand the presidential vertical power was still upheld by the "rtsmunebuli" institute. In view of these two conflicting approaches, the cultural policy model which evolved at this time was of a contradictory nature. The extension of independence for municipalities was declared theoretically. Although the state adopted the *Law on Local Administration and Self-government*, further laws evolving the practicalities of decentralisation were not passed, i.e. *Bills on Local and Municipal Property and Budgets*. Without these practical laws, the bodies of local administration and self-government found themselves without the appropriate power instruments. Institutional reform in the sphere of culture was not implemented during this period.

The third "revolutionary and post-revolutionary" phase (2003-2005) saw the recentralisation of cultural policy development supported by legislative / constitutional changes and in the extension and unification of infrastructure. This period was characterised by the need for the central government to restore the jurisdiction of the Georgian state over the entire territory of Georgia. The idea that art and culture could assist in economic growth, expansion of exports and employment and reinforce positive factors in the building of the state had not yet become popular. More recently, an entrepreneurial approach has been taken cultural policy (see ➡ [chapter 4.2.2](#)). This does not mean that operators are to rely solely on private sources of support but rather attempts to apply some market logic to the cultural sector. There are concerns that the privatisation of culture could produce very negative results in the hands of potential unfair investors.

The period from 2008-2012 (from the presidential elections of January 5th 2008) is marked by an intensification of centralised power, a weakening of self-governing institutions, self-censorship of the mass media and, consequently, a growth in the role of the state structures (Ministry of Culture and Cultural Heritage) in financing and administration of cultural policy.

In the period from 2012 to 2018, the cultural policy can be divided into two stages – the period of cohabitation of two political forces (The National Movement vs. Georgian Dream) in 2012-2014 and the period of development of the Culture Strategy in 2015-2017.

- 2012-2013 - In the first period of the Georgian Dream's ruling (the cohabitation stage) the cultural policy was homogeneous.
- From the second half of 2013, the use of expert methods started: in July, the Commission for Development of Culture policy and Strategy was created, which for the first time during the period of Georgian independence developed a concept of cultural policy (although the concept was not officially approved).
- On March 1st, 2013 the Basic Principles of the Strategy for Decentralization and Development of Self-Government for 2013-2014 were approved, but no decentralization of relevant resources nor management in the field of culture was implemented.

- On June 17, 2014 the Social-economic Development Strategy "Georgia 2020" was approved. The state strategy did not mention culture, which indicates the lack of relevance cultural policy had at this stage of the Georgian Dream's ruling.
- 2015 – A stage of intensive and systematic development of cultural strategy started.
- 2015-2016 – The use of expert methods was intensified, in order to reflect on three types of activities necessary to set the standard for a new cultural policy, such as:
 - Determination of the cultural values, priorities and goals;
 - Development and implementation of initiatives, actions and financing programs;
 - Policy monitoring.

Before the adoption of the "Culture Strategy 2025" only the second activity was prioritised. Despite the annual declaration of priorities and goals by the Ministry of Culture since 2004, systemising values and strategic vision has always been a weakness of the state, and monitoring has not been considered a significant part of the cultural policy.

With this background, under the Decree N 303 of the Government of Georgia, a modern and long-term document stating the Georgian national cultural policy, "Culture Strategy 2025", was approved on July 1st, 2016 – providing the Georgian state with such a strategic document for the first time in its history.

The strategy is an attempt to select a culture policy model that will aid its systematic and sustainable development. It consists of the following elements:

- Strategic long-term planning
- Integrated approaches
- Mobilizing resources
- Monitoring
- Vision based on the balance of the global and local:

Culture Strategy 2025; Chapter I - Vision and Mission

Vision of the Strategy: 'Georgia is a creative country and regional hub where innovation and creativity, along with safeguarding and revitalising national heritage and cultural diversity are the fundamental pillars of social wellbeing and sustainable development.'

The mission of the Government of Georgia: 'is to create a favourable and enriched environment where national heritage and cultural diversity are well-preserved and their potential is fully unleashed, creative businesses are developed and the diversity of cultural life is encouraged.'

2.2 National definition of culture

There is no special definition of culture in contemporary Georgian legislation.

The present Georgian legislation does not provide a special definition of "culture", but there are related terms such as "cultural activity", "sphere of culture", "cultural heritage", and "cultural values".

The *Law on Culture* (see [chapter 5](#)) defines "cultural work" as:

- the protection, defence, study, distribution, restoration and interpretation of cultural values; and
- creative work – the creation, restoration and interpretation of cultural values.

The Law also defines the "sphere of culture" as the territories and objects of history and culture, buildings, movable and immovable monuments of culture, folklore, art souvenirs, crafts, art education, professional creative work and literature,

education, research and development, technologies, popularisation of the cultural and creative process via mass media, cultural-entertainment programmes and showbiz. "Cultural heritage" and "cultural values" are described as products of cultural and creative work, aesthetic, artistic, scientific and technical values.

The Overview of the Georgian Cultural Policy: National Report 2001 provides the following understanding of the concept of culture: "The originality of culture is the determining factor for development of the state in the past and in the future."

The historical and confessional diversity of the Georgian state has also contributed to the concept of Georgian national culture based on diversity and tolerance.

Culture is also inseparably associated with the culture of human relations as seen through classic Georgian literature and folklore.

It may be concluded that in Georgia, the national concept of culture is understood as a system of values determining and composing the national identity, and hence, the national integrity.

2.3 Cultural policy objectives

The priorities of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia for 2011-2014 are:

- Priority 1: Promotion of the art education system;
- Priority 2: Building of a positive image of Georgia worldwide;
- Priority 3: Promotion of the cultural heritage and improvement of the museum system; and
- Priority 4: Promotion of various art fields.

After the Russia-Georgia military conflict in 2008, the cultural policy of the separatist governments in the breakaway "independent" republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia has been openly nationalistic and anti-Georgian. In particular, this relates to the immovable monuments of cultural heritage (see ➡ [chapter 4.2.2](#)) and teaching and use of the Georgian language (see ➡ [chapter 4.2.5](#)). The Georgian state has opposed this policy using legal measures (***Law on Occupied Territories***, see ➡ [chapter 5](#)) and financial tools (financing of programmes for reintegration and integration, promotion of culture of national minorities, see ➡ [chapter 4](#)).

Special attention will be paid, in the joint strategic priorities of the Ministries of Culture and Monument Protection and Internal Affairs of Georgia for 2011-2014, to the active involvement of UNESCO in the problems of protection of cultural heritage and the education sphere in the Georgian territories occupied by Russia.

On 15 October 2010, the new ***Constitution of Georgia*** was adopted, which changes the system from a presidential state model to a mixed parliamentary-presidential model. Consequently, the powers of the prime minister and the Parliament were strengthened and the presidential functions have diminished. The Constitution takes effect step by step: the section regarding judicial power has been put into force already, while the section regarding the functions of the prime minister, parliament and president will take effect after the next parliamentary and presidential elections (end of 2012, 2013).

In 2011, in the context of the adoption of the new Constitution and the declaration of the entrepreneurial model of cultural policy, the theme of correlating culture and the economy is emphasised:

- employment in the culture sphere;
- support for investment and tourism; and
- development and support of the "creative industries" (the sphere of culture is defined as the creative industry and is consequently considered as one sector of the economy).

After the 2012 Parliamentary and 2013 Presidential Elections, the government developed the strategic document - Main Data and Trends of the Country for 2013-2016, Tbilisi, 2013 and the governmental programme - For a Strong, Democratic and United Georgia. They determine the approaches to culture and its role in state building.

As a result of the activities to be implemented in the cultural sphere Georgia will become a worthy member of the contemporary world. This goal is served by the elaboration of the strategic plan of culture development where principles to be taken into consideration include: the free activity of Georgian citizens in the cultural sphere and ensuring non-interference of the government in the creative process.

Sole decisions on the part of the authorities will be excluded and the integration of the Georgian cultural space into the world cultural space will be promoted. Cultural heritage will be protected according to worldwide recognised standards. The rehabilitation process will be conducted with due account to international standards, recommendations of UNESCO and other international organisations.

In 2015 the law to guarantee Georgian as the official language was adopted by an emergency measure.

In 2013 Georgia made a significant step towards European integration: on 29 November in Vilnius, at the Eastern Partnership Summit, Georgia initialled the EU Association Agreement. The Association Agreement will replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed in 1996 and will create a new legal framework of cooperation between Georgia and the EU. Compared with the PCA, the Association Agreement is a comprehensive and politically and inclusively stronger document which raises the cooperation between Georgian and EU in all priority directions to a totally new level.

Throughout the year 2013, the government of Georgia developed various strategic documents related to the Association Agreement; the most significant document is the Georgia 2020 Project for the social-economic development strategy of the country presented in November 2013, where the country's ambition to be a country built on European values and to accomplish political and economic integration with European was declared. Other documents also include the main principles of the strategy for decentralisation of the government of Georgia and self-government development for 2013-2014, the National Security Concept of Georgia and the Strategy of the Government of Georgia on communication and information on European integration issues for 2014-2017.

In this context the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia began work on its own strategic document. Under *Order N03/121* of the Ministry of July 29th 2013 an ad hoc Commission for development of cultural policy and strategy was established.

The Commission has developed the first strategic document – the project of *Cultural Policy Concept for the Transitional Period* (2014-2016) which gives top priority to interdisciplinary research. According to the project, the concept of Georgian cultural policy is based on universally recognised principles and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Paris, 20 October, 2005). Based on this concept, a unified strategy for cultural policy and a national plan of action as well as strategies and plans for the arts for the next period will be created.

The draft Concept of Cultural Policy was developed by seven local experts and presented to the Ministry. The document is the first of its kind in Georgia and, while stating the cultural values, lays out propositions for the main directions for the development of culture in Georgia. The expert panel developed the concept based on questionnaires, "round tables", and consultations with stakeholders in the cultural sectors. However, in early 2014 the top leaders of the Ministry were replaced and work on the cultural policy concept was suspended and the draft document was not adopted on the official level (see also http://www.euroeastculture.eu/struct_file.php?id_a=879).

The process of cultural policy development has been characterised by a series of PR actions.

On July 9th 2014 a **Memorandum of Cooperation** was signed between the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia and 31 nongovernmental organisations. The Memorandum implies cooperation with nongovernmental organisations in the process of development of the cultural policy document.

Since the new minister and top management took office in 2014, the development of a cultural policy strategy for Georgia has been initiated. The draft concept of 2013 serves as one of the inputs to this process. The new overture implies the process of development of a comprehensive strategy that will involve national and local authorities and legal entities as well as civil society. It aims for outcomes that will be approved by the government but to a large extent will be adopted by the cultural sector.

An EU cultural policy expert provided by the Regional Monitoring and Capacity Building Unit (RMCBU) under the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme supports and advises the ministry and the cultural sector in this process

A conference devoted to the development of the natural cultural strategy – "The Georgian Cultural Strategy: Human, Processes, Priorities" was held on January 30th 2015. This conference became a new phase in the development of the cultural policy strategy.

The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia has launched a cultural strategy elaboration process. The Government of Georgia is expected by the end of 2015 to adopt the long-term Strategy for Culture 2025 and the first Action Plan 2016/2017 for implementing the strategy. The aim of Culture 2025 is to set a long-term vision for culture and creativity for Georgia that highlights the intrinsic value of culture as well as the potential that culture plays in developing the economy, strengthening identity and enhancing social cohesion. The aim of the Action Plan is to identify short-term priorities and key activities to revive the cultural and creative sectors and unleash the potential for rebuilding a coherent society by suggesting concrete and necessary cultural policy reforms.

To foster good cultural governance, the Culture 2025 elaboration process has been established on the principles of transparency and inclusiveness. The drafting of the strategy will be conducted in a participatory manner with the collaboration of professionals representing Georgian cultural and creative sectors (the arts, heritage and creative industries).

To coordinate the strategy elaboration and drafting process, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection established a Culture Strategy Coordination Group that is composed of professionals from the Georgian cultural and creative sectors. The Coordination Group was chaired by the Head of the Culture Policy Unit of the Ministry of Culture.

For the professionals from the cultural and creative sectors, activity within the Coordination Group is a voluntary engagement in the interest of developing Georgian culture.

2016

On July 1st, 2016, the Government of Georgia by its decree approved the long-term document of development of the Georgian culture "Cultural Strategy 2025". (see also <https://tinyurl.com/y9xhm3cc>)

The document has been developed by the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection with the involvement of the general public and the interdepartmental commission of the Georgian Government. This novelty in Georgian history defines the state's cultural vision, mission and objectives, the implementation of which will contribute to a step by step solution for various problems and challenges that different cultural sectors are facing.

"The Culture Strategy 2025", in addition to the traditional directions of culture, focuses on the creative industries, including the promotion of creative start-ups that will be beneficial for the country's socio-economic development.

The culture strategy development process began in 2014 with the elaboration of the guidelines, which have defined the main principles of the Strategy: **openness, transparency and inclusiveness.**

The process has involved the general public: a total of 53 meetings with various professional groups were held across the country (30 in Tbilisi and 23 in the regions), in which more than 3000 people took part. The culture strategy development process has involved the media, non-governmental and international organizations, ethnic minorities, as well as people with disabilities and other interest groups.

Parallel to the meetings, the consultations were held where the comments and recommendations were shared in writing and through a variety of electronic resources (the website www.cultureandsports.gov.ge, email, a hotline, a special online questionnaire, etc.).

The strategy development process was implemented in close cooperation with the European Union and was assessed positively by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

The Culture Strategy aims to define a long-term vision on the development of culture and the creative sector in order to underline their value for and importance to the national identity, the social unity and sustainable development of the country.

Based on the consultation, 8 main Strategic Goals were identified:

1. Awareness Raising and Education
2. Access to Culture and Cultural Diversity
3. Culture and Other Key Areas
4. Funding of Culture
5. Cultural Infrastructure and New Technologies
6. Creative Industries
7. Internationalisation of Culture
8. Principles of the Governance of Culture

Achieving them will create an environment where:

- The value of culture and creativity is understood by the society and it is integrated into every level of education;
- Culture is accessible to each member of society notwithstanding their locality, and where cultural diversity is protected and supported;
- Culture and creativity are seen as an integral part of the country's development, that will create additional innovative opportunities for strengthening other sectors and will support Georgia's sustainability and well-being;
- Employment in the field of culture is attractive and adequately valued;
- Cultural infrastructure corresponds to people's needs and provides them with modern, high quality products and services;
- Funding of culture is stable and funding mechanisms are diverse and transparent;
- Cultural policy is based on research; where professionals and the wider society is involved in an open and transparent policy process;
- Culture and creativity are important sources of jobs, economic growth and innovation; aiding a successful environment for individual creative expression (See: 4.2.1 Conceptual issues of arts policies).

2017

The Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia created a two-year action plan for implementation of the strategy (the Intradepartmental Action Plan of Culture Strategy 2017-2018 <http://cultureandsports.gov.ge/CulturePoli/ActionPlan.aspx?lang=en-US>) of which the priorities and objectives were identified for the years 2017-2018. Also an Interagency Action Plan of Culture Strategy Implementation was developed for 2017-2018: <http://mcs.gov.ge/Public-Info/saministros-mier-shemushavebuli-strategiebi,-konce.aspx>.

In accordance with the Culture Strategy 2025, the development of thematic/sectoral strategies, action plans and roadmaps started, and the reports on implemented action plans were published.

In 2017 the following documents were developed:

- Roadmap for Ensuring Equal Participation of People with Disabilities in Georgia's Cultural and Creative Life, <https://tinyurl.com/ydydxnpx>
- Action Plan for Ensuring Equal Participation of People with Disabilities in Georgia's Cultural and Creative Life, 2017-2018, <http://mcs.gov.ge/Public-Info/saministros-mier-shemushavebuli-strategiebi,-konce.aspx>

The following documents are in process of development for the purpose of improving cultural governance:

- Action Plan for Protection and Popularization of Cultural Heritage and Values on the Occupied Territories of Georgia
- Action Plan for Maintenance, Study and Popularization of the Georgian Cultural Heritage Abroad and the so called "shared" Cultural Heritage existing in the Country
- Action Plan for Protection and Emergency Management of Real and Movable Objects of Cultural Heritage during Emergency Situations
- Cultural Heritage Code
- Roadmap and Action Plan for Art and Culture Education
- Study and Action Plan for Out-of-school Art Education Facilities

These reports have been prepared and published: <http://mcs.gov.ge/Annual-report.aspx>

- Creative Georgia – for Sustainable Development – The Culture Strategy 2025, First Year Report.
- Report of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia 2015-2016
- Report of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia 2013-2015
- Report of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia 2012-2013 – Culture in Figures

Reports on international legal acts that have been carried out:

- The first national report on the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention implementation was prepared
- Report on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – Section of Culture
- The first report of the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Section of Culture

The priorities of the 2017-2018 Action Plan for Implementation of the Culture Strategy were:

- Art education development, awareness raising;
- Creative industries development, internationalization;
- Development of cultural infrastructure and facilitating public access to culture;
- Improving culture management

Priorities for 2018 are as follows:

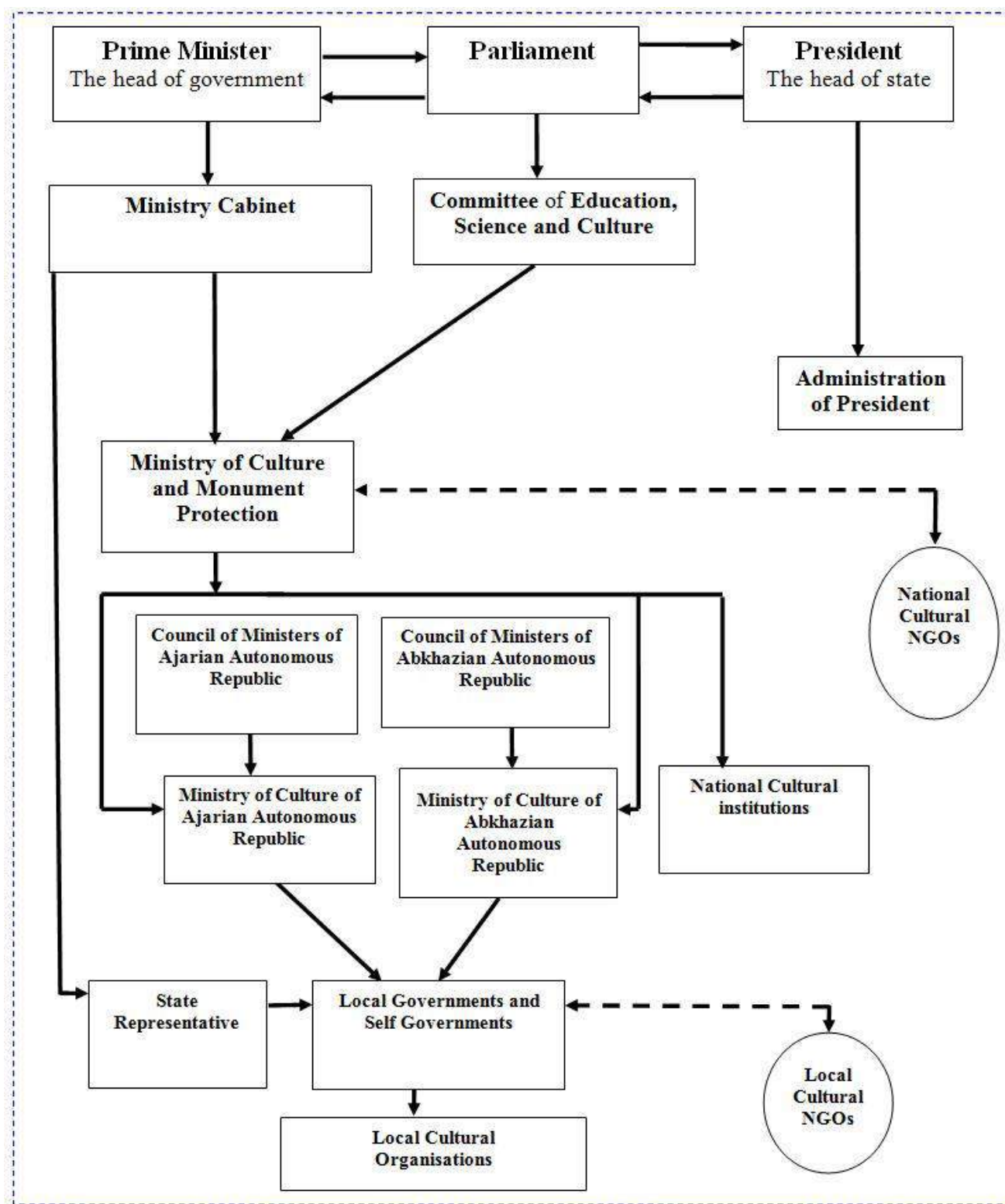
- To start gradual transition to the culture governance reform and public funding model
- To start the art education reform
- To approve the Cultural and Natural Heritage Code
- To develop the cultural infrastructure (15.8 million GEL from the state budget)
- To rehabilitate cultural heritage monuments (up to 40 monuments - 6 million GEL)

The following significant events were outlined in 2018:

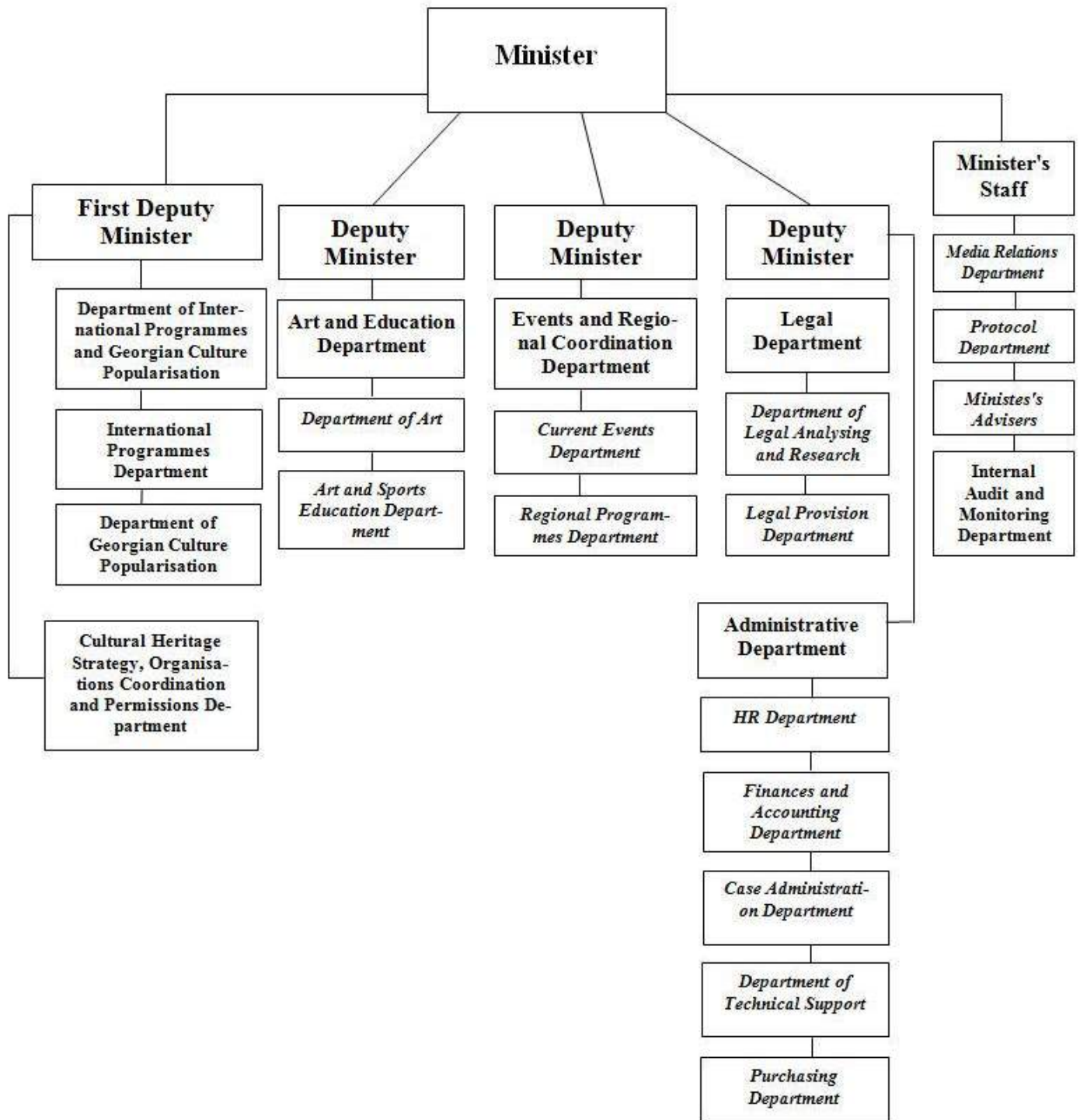
- Participation in the Frankfurt Book Fair as a honorary guest - up to 100 cultural and up to 500 literature events
- International Forum "Creative Georgia"
- Conducting up to 50 festivals
- Promoting participation in up to 200 student/youth study, competitions/festivals
- UNESCO will consider Georgian Wrestling to be entered in the World Intangible Heritage List.

3. Competence, decision-making and administration

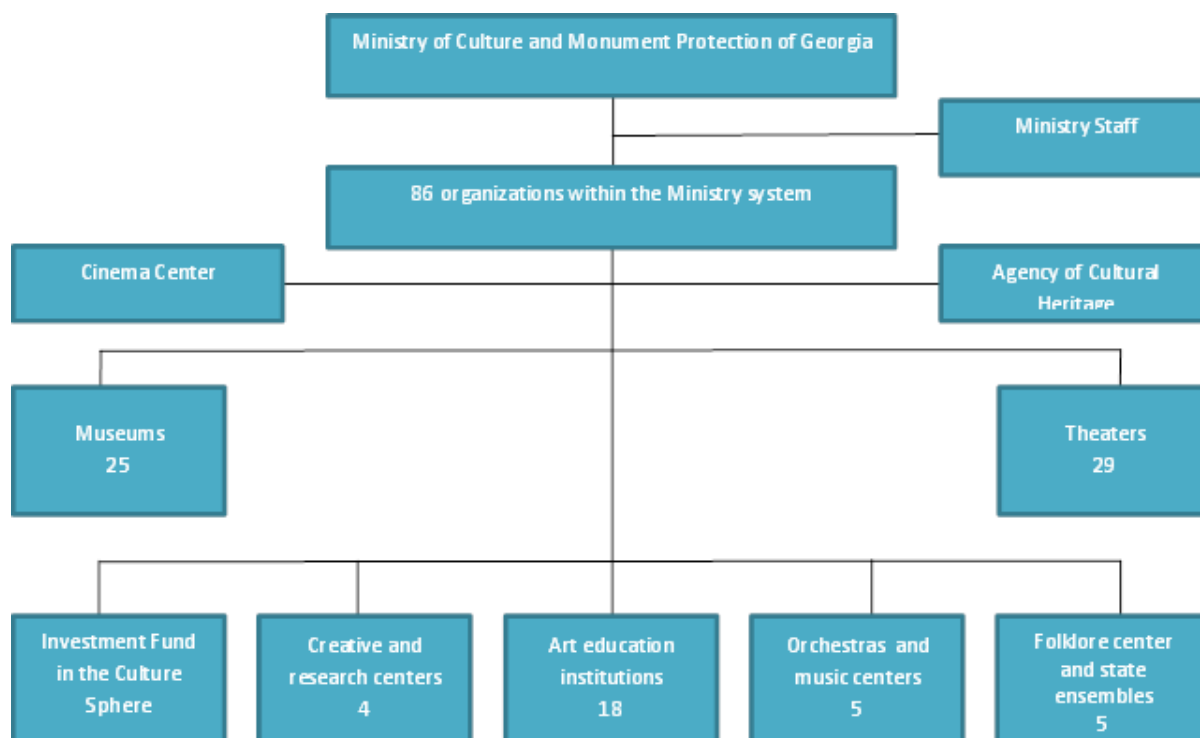
3.1 Organisational structure (organigram)



Ministry Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia



System of Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia / 2016 data



The Ministry implements the program expenditures through the Ministry staff, programs and 86 subordinate organizations employing 9070 persons.

3.2 Overall description of the system

Georgia is a democratic republic divided into 9 regions, 65 territories, 2 autonomous republics – Abkhazia and Ajaria, and 5 cities. The official language is Georgian, except in the territory of Abkhazia where both Georgian and Abkhazian languages are official. The capital city of Georgia is Tbilisi with a population of 1 253 000.

On October 15th 2010, a new ***Constitution of Georgia*** was adopted, which changed the system from a presidential state model to a mixed parliamentary-presidential model. Consequently, the powers of the prime minister and the Parliament are strengthened and the presidential functions are diminished. The *Constitution* takes effect step by step: the section regarding judicial power has been put into force already, while the section regarding the functions of the prime minister, parliament and president will take effect after the next parliamentary and presidential elections.

The system of administration includes the following branches of authority:

Parliament – holding legislative powers; the parliamentary committee for education, science, culture and sports is responsible for legislation and supervision of the executive power (the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia).

President of Georgia – is the head of state, supreme commander-in-chief and holder of the highest office within the government of Georgia. Executive power is split between the President and the Prime Minister, who is the head of government. The President's Administration includes the Internal Policy Service. The Service for Culture, Science and Youth Affairs which existed at the State Chancellery before the Rose Revolution has been dismantled; only one unit in the newly formed Internal Policy Service represents Culture, Science, Social and Religious Affairs.

Cabinet of Ministers and its head – the Prime Minister – form the executive power. In line with the amendments made to the Constitution since 2004, the role of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Ministers has been strengthened. The Prime Minister holds the central place in the hierarchy of the executive power.

The institutional division of authority among various levels of power in culture is as follows:

National government: **the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sports** was changed in 2010 into two separate ministries – the **Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection** and **Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs**.

A new structure, the **National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia** (<http://heritagesites.ge/>) was created in 2008 at the **Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection**.

There are **Reserve Funds of the President of Georgia and government of Georgia** that finance emergency programmes, including those in the cultural sphere (see ➡ [chapter 5.1.2](#)). Such programmes are implemented together with the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection and promote more centralisation of the state policy for culture (see ➡ [chapter 3.4.2](#)).

National institutions and organisations of culture are subordinate to **the Agency for Administration at the Ministry of Economic Development**. The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia is responsible for the development of cultural policy.

Advisory bodies or councils: In the Georgian system of cultural administration there is no institute or independent arts council. Advisory bodies – branch committees – were established at the **Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection**. These committees are composed of freelance experts but remain largely inactive. Small grants are made available to ensure public participation in the implementation of cultural policy.

There are no special bodies such as councils, committees or working groups which facilitate the representation and participation of national and cultural minorities or groups of immigrants in the cultural processes. The only authority which indirectly addresses these issues (in the context of the protection of the general rights of minorities) is the **Centre for Tolerance at the Office of the Ombudsman of Georgia**.

Following parliamentary elections (21.05.2008), a new position was created – the State Minister for Georgian Diasporas - with a budget of 888 400 GEL.

Local authorities: In line with Georgian legislation, the governments of Abkhazia and Ajaria Autonomous Republics have their own Ministries of Culture which are responsible for programmes within their respective administrative borders.

The local authorities of administration (municipalities) and self-government (sakrebulo – city or village councils) bear responsibility for cultural activity in the regions.

The structural units of local authorities are the departments of culture, cultural heritage and protection of monuments at the local governmental level.

Most of the institutions of culture (theatres, clubs, museums, libraries, centres and house of culture, art and music schools) responsible to the local bodies of administration and self-government have legal NGO-statuses although they receive state-municipal financing.

Presidential power in the regions is realised through the institute of presidential "rtsmunebuli" (the governor / president's attorney). There are 10 rtsmunebulis throughout Georgia. The Governor's Office includes the committee for culture (institutions and programmes of regional importance. The Rtsmunebuli Office is financed from the central budget (the role of the rtsmunebuli - governor (the president's confidant in each region) is defined in the new Constitution of Georgia of

15 October 2010). In many respects, the President's institutes -"rtsmunebuli"- duplicate the functions of the bodies of local administration and self-government and due to a trend of centralisation in recent years the powers of the rtsmunebuli have been further reinforced.

In some cases there are conflicting priorities and approaches taken by the national cultural policy and by the policies of local self-government which can result in the lack of a coherent system for cultural support.

Due to the political and economic interests of the central authorities listed above, as well as demands from both local authorities and the public, the problems of delimitation of powers and reinforcement of centralisation have become very acute.

Following the amended Constitution of Georgia, the institute of presidential "rtsmunebuli" (plenipotentiary) has been changed and turned into the institute of governmental "rtsmunebuli". Now it is subordinate to the Government and not the President but maintains the same function of the centralised administration. Presidential power in the regions, realised through the institute of presidential "rtsmunebuli", is now being subsumed under government control in changes to the Constitution.

Since June 2014, for the first time in the history of existence of the **Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia**, the Ministry commenced cooperation with USAID with a view to improving institutional effectiveness. Under the recommendation of USAID's contractor organisation TBSC CONSULTING, a reorganisation plan has been developed, with new structural units established (e.g. the **Cultural Policy Division of the Department of International Relations, the Department of Review and Monitoring of Projects**). In February 2015 the contest for new vacancies in the ministry was announced.

2016

- In the 2016 **Cultural Policy Division** and the **Division for Integration** with the EU, relations with international organizations and foundations have been established in the **International Relations Department**.

The **International Relations Department** will develop the Ministry's policy, which covers the following areas:

- a) the Ministry's international policy and strategy determination and coordination;
- b) development of the cultural policy short- and long-term plans;
- c) coordination of the processes of the integration in Europe in the field of culture;
- d) providing performance of the obligations undertaken by the Association Agreement and Association Agenda within its competence;
- e) promotion of participation of Georgia in the cultural programs of the European Union;
- f) establishment of relations with the the relevant authorities of foreign countries, international and donor organizations;
- g) participation in drafting of the international agreements within the competence, coordination of the obligations under the international agreements;
- h) promotion of the Ministry activities related to the international relations and project management;
- i) development of international strategic documents of the Ministry, development and implementation of the sector development programs;
- j) active cooperation with the embassies of Georgia abroad and foreign embassies accredited in Georgia;
- k) providing participation of the Ministry in international forums and arrangement of similar events in Georgia;
- l) drafting cooperation agreements and contracts with foreign countries in the field of culture;
- m) promotion of the educational programs to rise the public awareness in the culture sphere.

Two Creative Europe desks - culture and media - were established at the Ministry, which conducted 6 informational meetings and 77 individual consultations during 2016. <http://creativeeurope.ge/>

In 2017 this new government organization Creative Georgia was created: <http://creativegeorgia.ge/>

Creative Georgia is a LEPL (Legal Entity of Public Law) created under the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, that focusses on commercialisation of the creative industries sector and supporting its sustainable development.

The aims of Creative Georgia

- Raising awareness about CCIs;
- Capacity building of creative entrepreneurs;
- Establishing networking platforms;
- Creating funding opportunities and spreading information about existing funding opportunities;
- Supporting the export of creative goods and the general internationalization of the sector;
- Implementing the Creative Europe programme at national level;
- Supporting research in the CCI sector.

Creative Europe culture and media desks joined Creative Georgia.

At the end of 2017, structural changes were implemented - the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia was given the sport section of the cancelled Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. As a result, in early 2018 the Ministry of Culture and Sport was created. Structural changes in the Georgian Government are still being processed.

3.3 Inter-ministerial or intergovernmental co-operation

Cooperation between the **Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia** and other ministries is determined by their participation in public cultural development. There are no special inter-ministerial agreements; co-operation is regulated under the *Law on Structure and Procedures of Executive Power*.

The ministries responsible for some aspects of regulation / management of culture are:

The Ministry of Education and Science is responsible for the implementation of reforms in higher, vocational and secondary education, including legislative reform, and accordingly is responsible for education policies. The ministry also implements the state policy on the official Georgian language and undertakes to provide equal access to learning Georgian, especially in the regions with a high density of ethnic minorities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the development and implementation of a single foreign policy, including the foreign cultural policy. The ministry provides coordination with foreign countries and international organisations. The National Committee of UNESCO at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia coordinates the ministries, institutions and agencies engaged in the sphere of culture. The Secretariat of the Committee is also established under this ministry.

The Centre for the Protection of Georgian Cultural Heritage Abroad, which was established under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2004, was abolished in 2006. It was replaced by a new Department for Foreign Economic and Humanitarian Relations, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This department took over the responsibilities of the Centre for the Protection of Georgian Cultural Heritage Abroad and the Department for Foreign Economic Relations. It also includes a section responsible for Cultural Heritage. Following parliamentary elections (21.05.2008), a new position was created – the State Minister for Georgian Diasporas - with a budget of 888 400 GEL.

The Ministry of Economic Development (Departments for Tourism, Construction and Privatisation) is responsible for the strategy on privatisation and attraction of subsidies (including for the cultural sector); for tourism development (including cultural tourism), creation of a favourable investment environment for cultural industries and

provision of the official system for the preservation of cultural heritage in the areas of construction, spatial planning and cultural landscaping.

The Ministry of Finance, like the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection is responsible for execution of the budget and for regulation of the United Fund of the National Lottery.

The President's Administration cooperates with the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection in the planning, financing and arrangement of all major public cultural events inside and outside Georgia.

The functions of the **Ministry of Justice** regarding the cultural and natural heritage are limited to the activities of its subordinate entities of public law – the National Archive and the National Agency of Public Register.

- The National Archive maintains the documents of cultural heritage value which may be also registered as cultural heritage listed properties by the Ministry of Culture, and ensures their inventory, identification and rehabilitation.
 - The National Agency of Public Register is authorised to register the title to ownership for all immovable assets and among them cultural heritage monuments as well. The registration document issued by the Agency does not provide information on whether the property is listed as a cultural heritage monument, i.e. the data from the Register of Cultural Heritage Listed Properties maintained by the Ministry of Culture is not integrated in the digital database of the Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources (the MoE) is the chief coordinating authority in the field of natural heritage protection. The ministry defines the state policy, strategies and priorities for planning and utilisation of natural resources; elaborates and implements the ecological safety policy, etc. The ministry manages the territories of environmental value, which apart from valuable natural resources contain historic monuments and sites. More importantly, according to environmental legislation, the World Natural Heritage sites and Protected Landscapes are part of the legislative system of the nature protection, therefore they fall under the direct management of the MoE. Thus the MoE is involved in the protection of cultural heritage, although this is not its direct responsibility.

The **Agency of Protected Areas** is a legal entity of public law established by the ministry for the implementation of management of protected areas (The legislation distinguishes the following types of protected areas: Strict Nature Reserve, National Park, Natural Monument, Managed Nature Reserve and Protected Landscape).

On the regional level, the **Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection** cooperates with the local authorities, the office of rtsmunebuli / governor / President's attorney and municipal authorities in the form of methodological consultations, concrete projects or in the context of collaboration in respect of a budget-funded institution or monument of culture. Until 2003, the Ministry of Culture had coordinators in the regions through which it provided supervision on its cultural policies and supported its powers with budgetary funds.

The Ministries of Culture of Abkhazia and Ajaria Autonomous Republics are under dual subordination – they are accountable to local governments and to the central authority. However, in view of the war and the 12-year conflict, the de-facto Abkhazian authorities independently control the cultural policy in the territory of Abkhazia. Similarly, the Ministry of Culture of the Ajaria Autonomous Republic pursues the cultural policy, in the context of the decentralisation policy, declared by the Georgian government within its administrative borders.

The period 2008-2011 (from the early presidential elections on January 5th 2008 until now) is marked by intensification of centralisation and a weakening of self-governing institutions – e.g. the Ajara Autonomous Republic's cultural policy is the embodiment of the central authority policy. The most serious issue is the preservation of the urban heritage, e.g. reconstruction of the city of Batumi – amateurish architectural injections in the urban landscape, loss of harmony, proportionality, autochthony of historical buildings and, consequently, the loss of the city's uniqueness and its cultural diversity (see also ➡ [chapter 4.2.2](#)). Source: ICOMOS Georgian National Centre's experts and other free professionals.

At present, there are no special interdepartmental or interstate systems in place for addressing intercultural dialogue in Georgia (see [chapter 3.4.5](#) (interstate) and [chapter 4.2.7](#) (intra-state)).

On 21 November 2014, a working group for reviewing infrastructure needs was established by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, with the Minister as Chairman. The Interdepartmental Working Group is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Finance, Economy and Sustainable Development and Tbilisi City Hall.

In 2016, in the process of developing the Georgian ``Culture Strategy 2025`` (see section 2.3), the interagency committee and a working group have been established aiming to involve all government agencies in the development of the culture strategy document and its implementation.

The 2016 document `Culture Strategy 2025` contains the Strategic Goal ``Internationalisation of Culture``:

Chapter II: Strategic Goals - Internationalisation of Culture

Goal: Georgia is an active participant of international cultural processes; it is a subject of interest for the rest of the world with its rich cultural heritage, vibrant cultural life and arts.

7.1. Objective: The internationalisation of the cultural sector helps the development of culture, increases the nation's export capacity and empowers its image.

Tasks:

- Ensure that legislation of the cultural sector is harmonised with ratified international norms and its convergence with the EU laws;
- Strengthen the collaboration between Georgia and other countries in the frameworks of bilateral/multilateral agreements and/or joint programmes;
- Support the internationalisation of Georgia's cultural sector and intensify efforts for its establishment in the European and international markets (e.g. help cultural professionals, organisations, artists with joining international clusters and networks, with establishing international contacts and participating in mobility programmes (eg: travel grants, exchange programmes, etc.), support co-production and the exportation of cultural products and services, etc.);
- Enhance international cooperation in order to support the efforts of creative industries to join international online platforms, export its products and increase the level of public accessibility to international online platforms;
- Help creative industries in creating co-funding opportunities and developing co-production through international programmes, such as Creative Europe, Eurimage, the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme, Creative Cities Network - UNESCO, etc.;
- Elaborate and introduce a more comprehensive concept for Georgia's cultural days abroad (e.g. in addition to cultural heritage, demonstrate contemporary achievements, initiatives, successful creative businesses and investments, public facilitation programmes and etc. and create integrated promotion policy);
- In order to promote Georgian culture abroad, facilitate public-private partnerships and the implementation of joint projects (e.g.: organise exhibitions, present Georgia at international fairs, festivals and other events, support the integrated representation of business, touristic, agricultural and cultural resources, etc.);
- Consider the significance of the cultural and creative resources in terms of foreign trade policy, international relations and diplomacy (e.g. facilitate the introduction of the post of cultural attaché etc.).

The 2017-2018 Interagency Action Plan for Implementation of the Culture Strategy was developed as well <http://mcs.gov.ge/Public-Info/saministros-mier-shemushavebuli-strategiebi,-konce.aspx>

3.4 International cultural co-operation

3.4.1 Overview of main structures and trends

Georgia and the European Union signed the **Association Agreement**, including deep and comprehensive free trade area (DCFTA), on June 27th 2014 in the margins of the European Council meeting in Brussels. The agreement was signed by the Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili, the President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy, the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso and the heads of states and governments of the EU-member states present at the ceremony. Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili said the agreement represents "a master plan for Georgia's modernisation."

Chapter 17 of the **EU-Georgia Association Agreement** is devoted to cooperation in the cultural field and is concretely mentioned in Article 362 and 363:

Article 362: "The Parties will promote cultural cooperation taking duly into account the principles enshrined in the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The Parties will seek regular policy dialogue in areas of mutual interest, including the development of cultural industries in the EU and Georgia. Cooperation between the Parties will foster intercultural dialogue, including through the participation of the culture sector and civil society from the EU and Georgia".

Article 363: "The Parties shall concentrate their cooperation in a number of fields:

- cultural cooperation and cultural exchanges;
- mobility of art and artists and strengthening of the capacity of the cultural sector;
- intercultural dialogue;
- dialogue on cultural policy; and
 - cooperation in international fora such as UNESCO and the Council of Europe, inter alia, in order to foster cultural diversity, and preserve and valorise cultural and historical heritage."

Georgia has signed various agreements, in the sphere of culture, with the EU countries, CIS countries (Commonwealth of Independent States), USA, China, Israel etc. These agreements are divided into:

- interstate agreements between governments in the sphere of culture;
- special inter-governmental cultural programmes; and
- agreements between Georgian ministries and departments with respective partner organisations in the sphere of culture.

The first group of agreements include those between Georgia and the UK, China, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Germany, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan (all in 1993), Poland, Russia, Turkey (all in 1994), Bulgaria, Uzbekistan (all in 1995), Spain, Israel (all in 1996), Greece, Iran, France, Kyrgyzstan (all in 1997), Italy (1999), Romania (2000), Estonia, Cyprus, Slovenia (all in 2005), Lithuania (2007), Slovakia (2009) and Malta (2010).

The second group of agreements includes intergovernmental programmes on cultural exchange with Russia (1997) and intergovernmental cooperation programmes on culture, education and science with Israel, Spain, and Greece for 2004-2006:

- Programme for Exchange in the Spheres of Science, Education and Culture between Georgia and the Russian Federation for 1997. Effective: 06.06.1997;
- Protocol on Cooperation between Georgian and Ukrainian Frontier Troops in the Sphere of Sports and Culture between the State Department of National Frontier Protection of Georgia and the State Committee for National Frontier Protection of Ukraine. Effective: 14.02.1997;

- Programme of Cooperation in the Education and Culture Sphere between Georgia and Spain (2004-2007). Effective 20.10.2004;
 - Grant Agreement on Project of Japan-Georgia Cultural Cooperation In Connection with the Study of the Japan Language in Tbilisi State University between the government of Georgia and the government of Japan. Effective: 24.12.2008; and
 - Programme on cultural cooperation between the government of Georgia and the government of the State of Israel for the years 2013-2015. Entry into force: 25.06.2013

The third group of agreements includes those between the Ministry of Culture of Georgia and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs of Armenia (1999) and between the Ministry of Culture of Georgia and the Georgian Cultural, Tourist and Trade Centre in Japan (2000) and so on:

- Agreement on Cooperation in the Sphere of Culture between the Ministry of Culture of Georgia and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. Effective: 30.07.1999;
- Protocol of Intention of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of Georgia and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Italy. Effective: 10.12.2002;
- Memorandum of Understanding on Procedures for Political Consultations in Common Interests between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture of the Republic of Costa-Rica. Effective: 17.11.2009;
- Memorandum of Understanding between the government of Georgia and the government of the Republic of Portugal on cultural cooperation. Entry into force: 03.12.2010;
- Agreement on co-operation in the fields of culture, education, science, sports and youth affairs between the government of Georgia and the government of the Republic of India. Entry into force: 09.12.2011;
- Programme on cooperation in the field of culture between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia for the period 2013-2015. Entry into force: 12.06.2012;
- Programme on cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia for the period 2013-2015. Entry into force: 17.01.2013; and
- Programme on Cultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia for the years 2013-2016. Entry into force: 26.07.2013.

Recently, Georgia has intensified its contacts with the Baltic countries and GUAM countries (The GUAM Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development is a regional organisation of four CIS states: Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova). The contacts with Ukraine have become especially close and many-sided.

After the Russian-Georgian war of 2008, Georgia officially stopped its membership of the CIS.

In 2017, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection signed 4 international agreements. Procedures relating to the signing of 35 further agreements are in progress.

3.4.2 Public actors and cultural diplomacy

The Department of International Relations at the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection is responsible for international cultural cooperation. The issues of cultural heritage, in the context of international cultural cooperation, are mainly addressed by the Department of Cultural Heritage and, in the context of UNESCO programmes, within the remit of the National Committee of UNESCO (see [chapter 3.4.3](#)).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also has a responsibility for international cultural cooperation which is administered by its Department for Foreign Economic and Humanitarian Relations. This Department is responsible for some aspects of cultural policy and the protection of Georgian cultural heritage abroad.

Important features of the **Foreign Policy Strategy of Georgia for 2009-2012**, in particular, the 6th priority, are:

- the security environment for Georgia;
- a safe, democratic and developed state;
- Georgia in the international systems;
- Georgia in the region and in the world;
- citizens of Georgia and Georgian diasporas abroad (see ➡ [chapter 3.4.6](#)); and
- promotion of Georgia;

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is intensifying its activities in the sphere of culture (see: <http://www.mfa.gov.ge/>).

Following parliamentary elections on 21 May 2008, a new position of State Minister for Georgian Diasporas was created, with a budget of 888 400 GEL; which is a new actor in the field of international cultural relations. The State Minister for Georgian Diaspora is responsible for sustaining relations with the compatriots abroad, for cultural contacts with the diaspora and support of Georgian culture abroad.

On the municipal level, there are examples of international agreements between cities and regions, e.g. between the Culture Service of Tbilisi Municipality and respective services of Moscow (2000), Kiev (2001), Didim (2001), Yerevan (2003), Rome (2004) and Florence (2004).

The main instruments in international cultural relations are:

- the framework of the interstate agreements and bilateral agreements on cooperation between the ministries (e.g. the agreement between the Ministry of Culture of Georgia and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs of Armenia in 1999 and the Ministry of Culture of Georgia with the Georgian Cultural and Tourist and Trade Centre in Japan in 2000);
- agreements between the departments and the respective partner organisations in the sphere of culture; and
- agreements on joint projects between the cultural institutions (e.g. cooperation between the Mtskheta Archeological Museum-Reserve and the Travel Agency of Dublin (Ireland's tourism promotion board). Source: Ministry of Culture of Georgia.).

There are several examples of transnational cooperation in culture, education and science but, so far, there are few examples of trans-national cooperation in cultural education and training. For some years, such cooperation has been initiated by international organisations or by governmental programmes of countries that have a close relationship with Georgia e.g. Italy.

Each year, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection provides travel grants for young artists to attend international competitions or training courses etc. It also co-finances a grant for a competition with the government of Italy – the Rome Award.

Traditionally, the state has not made a big contribution to the organising of international projects.

Since 2007, the "Georgian Seasons" programme has been organised and is financed from the presidential and governmental reserve funds at the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection.

The state undertakes liability for the regular participation in such prestigious international events as the Venice Biennale, Prague International Festival, Frankfurt Book Fair, Berlinale, Istanbul Biennale, Edinburgh Festival and others.

In the framework of the programme, exhibitions and concerts are organised in Europe and the USA such as:

- Enamel Cloisonné from the Country of Golden Fleece – Exhibition Strasbourg. Council of Europe;
- Exposition of Gold Fund of Georgia "Medias' Gold" (New Discoveries from Georgia in Berlin, Nice, Paris, Washington);

- Ancient Georgia at the crossroads of Europe and Asia (Jewelry and History Exhibitions in Brussels);
- Niko Pirosmiani – Exposition of the National Museum of Georgia, Istanbul;
- Symphonic Music Concert. Soloists: Eliso Bolkvadze (piano) and Giorgi Kharadze (Cello), Paris;
- Georgian State Ensemble of Folk Singing and Dancing "Erisioni" Concert, Paris;
- Iliko Sukhishvili and Nino Ramishvili Academic National Ballet Troupe Concert in Spain; and
- Fund "Iavnana" - Gala Concert Madrid, Paris.

In 2010, in the framework of the programme "Georgian Seasons", the following events were financed (<http://mcs.gov.ge/georgianseason/?lang=eng>):

- Georgian Culture Days in Oslo;
- 3rd Cannes Film Festival;
- Conference at Columbia University- *Modernism in Georgia*;
- Georgian Gallery in Madrid;
- 9 international prizes to Georgian Macbeth, (V. Abashidze Musical Comedy and Drama Theatre)- 17th Small Stage International Theatre Festival was held in Rieca, Croatia;
- Kremerata Baltica orchestra, led by Gidon Kremer, visited Georgia and gave a concert at Tbilisi State Conservatoire;
- The Argonauts' Gold;
- The sculpture of Shota Rustaveli was placed at Villa Borghese in Rome. The bust was erected on 9 April 2010 at Homeros street in front of the Gallery of Modern Art; and
- Georgian Cultural Days in Egypt.

In 2012, the main activities implemented by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia in the framework of the international programme were:

- The International festival "Chveneburebi";
- The Georgian culture days in Madrid (Spain) (with participation of LEPL National Academic Folk Song and Dance Ensemble of Georgia "Rustavi");
- Participation of the Georgian Association of Book Editors and Distributors at the International Leipzig Book Fair in Leipzig, Germany;
- Black Sea Jazz Festival in Batumi, Georgia;
- The anniversary gala-concert devoted to the 30 years on stage of the artistic director of National Ballet Ensemble of LEPL Tbilisi Z. Paliashvili Opera and Ballet State Theatre with participation of the world ballet stars;
- Swiss-Cuscus Festival "Convergence" at Tbilisi V. Sarajishvili State Conservatoire;
- Georgian winemaking documentary for UNESCO programme;
- Photo festival "KOLGA TBILISI PHOTO";
- Tbilisi International Photo Festival "Tbilisi Photo Festival 2012";
- Business trip of Georgian scientists to Palermo, Italy for the research of the materials about Georgia stored at the Vatican Secret Library and other libraries;
- The Caucasus Jazz Festival in Tbilisi, Georgia;
- Architect-Inventors Exhibition in London, England;
- Georgian Culture Days in Amsterdam, the Netherlands;
- The concert of LEPL Tbilisi State Chamber Orchestra at Koncert Begau in Amsterdam, the Netherlands;
- Participation of the State Shadow Theatre at the 2nd International Cartoon Festival in the village Nikozi at the occupied Tskhinvali Region territory;
- Georgian Culture Days in Amsterdam, the Netherlands;
- Opening of the Georgian House in frames of the London Olympics Games;
- Charitable concert held by Iavnana Foundation in Paris, France;
- "Art Gene" Festival of "World Music" artists;
- International Classic Music Festival in Kutaisi;
- International Festival "Travelling Notes" in Tbilisi arranged by the Music Arts Support and Development Foundation;

- In 2012 in the context of the London Summer Olympic Games 2012 the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia arranged the Georgian House where the samples of Georgian cultural heritage and works of Georgian modern artists were presented;
- in context of the visit of the minister of culture of Ukraine in Georgia on May 29-31, 2012, was drafted the agreement on the film coproduction between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the government of Georgia;
- March 11-15, 2012 the Swiss Culture Days in Georgia;
- December 17-21, 2012 the China Culture Days in Georgia. The Chinese theatre "Giansu" presented its performance in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi; and
- Throughout 2012 various international tours (music, theatrical) have been systematically financed.

The number of international festivals and events in Georgia grows every year. Participation in international forums and festivals is also increasing.

48 national and international festivals were conducted with the support of the state in 2017:

- Music festivals - 19
- Theater festivals - 8
- Movie festivals - 10
- Photo festivals - 2
- Choreography festivals - 2
- Contemporary art festival - 1
- Book and literature festivals - 2
- Fashion festivals - 2
- Black Sea folk festival - 1
- Carpets festival - 1

In accordance with the 2017-2018 Action Plan for the implementation of the Culture Strategy, in 2017 various international events were implemented following these priorities:

Priority "Raising awareness and internationalization":

- "2017 - Germany – Georgia Year" - 65 cultural and scientific events
- Up to 15 cultural events dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations
- Project: "Contemporary Art Gallery"
- National and International Contests: 5 literature, 2 musical, 1 exhibition, 1 album publishing

Priority "Creative Industries Development, Internationalization":

- National pavilion at Venice Biennale
- Within the framework of "Creative Europe" 10 projects were funded with participation of Georgia, total budget – up to 300,000 Euros
- Public lectures and meetings with German museums, the Goethe Institute and other organizations
- A documentary series about artists living abroad was shown in Germany and Georgia
- Authors' Reading Month 2017 - Czech Republic (the honorary guest-country status) - 31 writers, translation in 4 languages, events in 5 cities
- Evening party of Georgian Polyphonic Music – London, UK; Krynica (performance by the ensemble "Rustavi" within the International Economic Forum)
- Exhibition of works by Vasily Kandinsky repositied in the National Museum - (Milan, Italy)
- Exhibition "Georgia - The Cradle of Winemaking" - (Bordeaux, France), 60.000 visitors
- Ensemble "Rustavi" participation in the UNESCO event - (Paris, France),
- Georgian traditional craft – in the international exhibitions: "TENDENCE" (Frankfurt, Germany) and "L'ARTIGIANO IN FIERA" (Milan, Italy)

Priority "Internationalization":

- Theaters tours - 55
- Concerts of folk ensembles - 88

- Concerts - 29
- Grants to support participation of Georgian artists in international events – 18.

International public cultural agencies, institutes and funds also operate in Georgia.

Significant financing and support of international cultural cooperation was implemented through the international funds and institutions, such as the Open Society Georgia Foundation (Soros Foundation), South Caucasus Regional Office of the Heinrich-Boll-Foundation, the British Council Georgia Office, the Alexander Dumas Centre of French Culture, the French Institute, the Goethe Institute, the USAID. As there are minimal funds allocated by the state for international cultural relations, the role of the above listed universally recognised cultural agencies and institutes are very important. Each of the listed funds contributes to the development of public participation and cultural diplomacy according to their priorities.

In 2010, the Open Society Georgia Foundation (Soros Foundation) Programme for Culture and Arts was renewed.

Recently the list of Georgian international cultural events has increased. Especially important actions are those activities organised by the Georgian Arts and Cultural Centre.

In 2014, the geography of Georgian international cultural events continued to expand and the number of partners increased.

- On 23 September 2014 the New York Museum of Modern Art - MoMA, Berkeley Museum of Modern Art and the Pacific Film Archive hosted a large-scale retrospective of Georgian films which represented up to 45 films - beginning from the centuries-old Georgian silent cinema and film classics of the Soviet period, and ending with the latest Georgian films. After New York and Berkeley, 50 Georgian films were shown in Washington and Toronto cinema libraries. The promoters of the retrospective from Georgia were the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, the Consulate General of Georgia in New York, the Georgian National Film Centre, the National Archives, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.
- On October 14-19 2014 the first International Documentary Film Festival in the Caucasus "CinéDOC-Tbilisi" was held in Tbilisi, which featured creative documentaries. The festival was promoted by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Georgian National Film Centre. The festival hosted about 50 documentary films of Israel, Georgia, Turkey, Armenia, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Portugal, the Netherlands, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Canada, Belgium, Germany, Brazil, Denmark and their authors http://www.cinedoc-tbilisi.com/?page_id=373
- In 2014, the National Museum of Georgia received the Rothschild Foundation research grant. The Foundation-funded project was the first-ever scientific cooperation with Georgia. The Rothschild Foundation allocated the one-year grant for the Georgian National Museum's project "Jewish Cultural Heritage in the Georgian National Museum Collections and the Jewish Museum Renovation in Tbilisi". The grant provides for the full scientific study of Jewish collections and implementation of educational programmes. The project also foresees preparation of collections for permanent exhibition in the restored Jewish Museum.

Georgia is also cooperating with organizations as:

- Peace Corps
<https://www.peacecorps.gov/>
- Europa Nostra
www.europanostra.org

3.4.3 European / international actors and programmes

There are agreements in place between Georgia and international organisations such as UNESCO, ICROM (International Centre for Renovation and Maintenance (of Cultural Heritage Sites: affiliate of UNESCO), ICOM (International Council of Museums) and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites).

Georgia is included in HEREIN (European Heritage Network), and the Participation Programme (UNESCO). Georgia is also a member of the BSEC (Black Sea Economic Cooperation) working group on culture and European Heritage Days (since 1999).

Since 2001, Georgia has cooperated with the project STAGE (EC Cultural Policy and Action Department, Directorate General IV – Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport (DGIV/CULT/STAGE (2003) 11)) (since 2005-2006, this project has been transformed into the Kyiv Initiative (Regional Programme: Black Sea and South Caucasus -The Kyiv Initiative is a regional and transversal programme of cultural co-operation between five countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova).

Georgia participates in the EU neighbourhood policy, which has a plan of actions with the following objectives:

- Georgia shall consider and promote cultural diversity as promoted by the **UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**. Georgia joined the respective UNESCO Conventions (see ➡ [chapter 5.2](#)) http://mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=541&info_id=9752; and
- Georgia shall promote cooperation in culture within the framework of EU programmes.

From January 2015, Georgia became the first Neighbourhood country to join the Creative Europe Programme. In 2015, the organisations engaged in the Georgian cultural sphere will have an opportunity to present their projects to the European public after signing and ratification of the agreement between the EU and Georgia on the 24 February 2014, in Brussels (http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id_type=1&id=40047&lang_id=450&utm_source=Oempro&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Subscriber%232366&utm_campaign=Georgia%20becomes%20first%20Neighbourhood%20country%20to%20join%20Creative%20Europe%20Programme).

Regarding the transnational organisations which unite large geographical regions, Georgia has executed cultural agreements with the CIS (The creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States signalled the dissolution of the Soviet Union and, according to leaders of Russia, its purpose was to "allow a civilised divorce" between the Soviet Republics), GUAM and BSEC countries. The responsibility for the provision and monitoring of the **UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**, to which Georgia has acceded, is carried out by the National Committee of UNESCO, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The National Commission of Georgia for UNESCO consists of 12 members: the president, vice-president, Secretary-General and members of the commission. The members of the Commission are representatives of governmental authorities and organisations of Georgia, associations and non-governmental organisations, as well as independent experts. The President of the Commission is the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Commission meets twice a year.

The Secretariat of the National Commission of Georgia for UNESCO, which consists of 2 members and is supervised by the Secretary-General, is the part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Its main function is to deal with various issues initiated by UNESCO and / or Georgian National Commission for UNESCO and coordinate UNESCO's projects and events(see ➡ [chapter 5.2](#)).

UNESCO documents are:

- **"Memorandum on Cooperation between UNESCO and the Republic of Georgia"** from 1995, (http://mfagov.itdc.ge/files/541_9730_617862_memorandumi.pdf); and

- **UNESCO Conventions**

(see ➡ [chapter 5.2](#) and http://mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=541&info_id=9752).

The most important event in the context of international programmes is the millennium anniversary of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (2010), which is under the aegis of UNESCO.

EU assistance for reforms in Georgia is fundamentally important and the opportunities provided by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the Eastern Partnership Initiative are treated as vital both by civil society and the state.

The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia positively responded to the European Commission's proposal, in order to develop the territorial cooperation, by establishing the Eastern Partners *Regional Assembly* and creating the Eastern Partnership *territorial dimension*.

On 15 July 2010 in Batumi, the EU - Georgia Association Agreement was signed, which extends EU activities related to the coordination of aid to Georgia.

On 14 April 2011 in Tbilisi a regional seminar on *Culture of the Eastern Partnership* was held. It was a good platform for the preparation of outlines, some of the key elements and components that should be a part of the Georgian policy of cultural dialogue.

Georgia is working with the EU Member States and the Eastern Partner Countries on various possible project proposals to be implemented within the Eastern Partnership's multilateral framework.

The government of Georgia is ready to implement joint projects, especially in energy security, integrated border management, economic development, culture and education. In this regard, Georgia welcomes active involvement of EIB and EBRD (*ad hoc* participants of platforms II and III), other financial and business organisations as well as contributions from EU Member States and the private sector in the implementation of investment projects.

It has to be mentioned that the allocation of additional financing is essential in order to ensure the implementation of all relevant joint and ambitious projects defined within the Eastern Partnership. There should be clearer approaches related to financing, including submission of projects, selection criteria, available sources, and links with European and international financial institutions.

Certain steps were made to create the Parliamentary format of cooperation within the Eastern Partnership - EURONEAST: on 18 May 2009, Georgia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan signed a joint Statement about Parliamentary Cooperation within the Eastern Partnership; on 20-21 October 2009 in Sweden, during consultations among representatives of the European Parliament, Member State National Parliaments and the EaP Countries, a working group was created to elaborate a vision for a Parliamentary Assembly formation within the EaP format.

The government of Georgia is actively cooperating with the Civil Society in the framework of the Eastern Partnership and foresees the non-governmental sector as a permanent partner in the on-going activities. 22 non-governmental organisations from Georgia take part in the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. The Office of the State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration has launched regular dialogue with NGOs involved in the Civil Society Forum in all four directions with participation of the Line Ministries. Georgia supported participation of representatives of the Civil Society Forum at the platform meetings for the purpose of presentation of their recommendations and findings.

Georgia actively participated in the Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting held in Brussels on 13 December 2010.

Europe Day in Georgia

On 4-16 May 2010 different activities dedicated to Europe Day were held in Georgia. Of particular note were the official reception on behalf of the EU Delegation (11.05.2010); the celebration of Europe Day in the Georgian-European Policy and Advice Centre (GEPLAC) with representatives of the governmental structures (06.05.2010); a student conference on "Social and Economic Aspects of the Eastern Partnership"; debates on European Issues organised by the House of Europe on 15-16 May 2010, as well as various exhibitions and public lectures, with the purpose to raise public awareness of the European Union.

Culture

On 3 December 2010, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia signed a cooperation memorandum on Cultural issues with Portugal.

On 11 May 2010, the European Landscape Convention was signed by Georgia. The Convention was ratified on 15 September 2010 and came into force in January 2011.

Georgia signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society. It will be ratified in 2011.

In 2010, Georgia commenced Consultations toward the Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Georgia expressed readiness to join the Agreement.

In 4 October 2010, the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia signed a Co-operation Agreement on Cultural issues with the Ministry of Culture of the Bulgarian Republic for 2010-2012.

The Georgian government signed an Education, Science and Cultural Co-operation Agreement with the government of Republic of Malta, which came into force on 21 May 2010.

Events dedicated to the promotion of Georgian Culture were held in France (May-June) and in Italy (April and November) 2010.

Overview of the EU Assistance Programmes

The main activities related to EU assistance coordination in Georgia were mainly focused on the implementation of the EU pledge announced at the Brussels Donor Conference of 22 October 2008. A 500 Million EUR comprehensive assistance package, covering the period 2008 – 2010, will assist the resettlement of internally displaced persons; economic rehabilitation and recovery; and macro-financial stabilisation and support to Georgia's infrastructure.

The biggest part of the assistance has already been allocated for the recovery of the Georgian economy after the Russian aggression and has also fostered resilience in the days of the global financial crisis. Mindful of the public interest towards this pledge and its implementation, the government has ensured a high level of transparency. This was done through regular outreach vis-à-vis donors, civil society and all other stakeholders. The Donor Coordination Workshop organised in Tbilisi on 13 December 2010 showed what has been accomplished so far and devised future steps. It was also a good opportunity to discuss national and sector-specific donor mapping developments.

In the framework of the National Indicative Programme 2007-2010 (NIP), the Georgian government's efforts were mainly focused on the utilisation of new Instruments. All priorities of the NIP 2007-2010 were agreed with the EC and most of the programmes are being implemented.

The Financing Agreement for the new National Indicative Programme 2011-2013 was officially signed by the Vice Prime-Minister, State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia - Mr. Giorgi Baramidze and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy - Mr. Štefan Füle on 8 April 2010. The overall indicative budget for bilateral EU–Georgia assistance under the NIP 2011 - 2013 is EUR 180.29 million. This includes additional allocations from the Eastern Partnership of EUR 30.86 million for the Comprehensive Institution Building programme (CIB) and EUR 7.43 million for the Eastern Partnership Pilot regional development programme (will start in 2012 based on the document – "Vademecum on Financing in the framework of the Eastern partnership").

Assistance Opportunities under the Eastern Partnership Initiative (EaP):

The government of Georgia continues active cooperation with the EU Delegation regarding the EaP supporting measures. A good example of this cooperation is the EaP Culture Programme, TAM / BAS programmes, as well as The EAST-invest Programme. In this connection, it is important that the budget for EaP countries and the main directions for the further distribution of funds have already been identified, but it should also be mentioned that the procedures for Georgian involvement in the above programmes still needs further clarification.

Consultations with the Delegation of the EU in Georgia are underway regarding the procedural aspects of partnership aiming to start negotiations with the above and other EU agencies.

Following the Warsaw Summit of 29-30 September 2011, Georgia intends to increase the pace of work in the field of culture. European Integration will harmonise the cultural identity with the globalisation process and will facilitate the crystallisation of European values in the state cultural policy of Georgia.

Since 2012 two very important projects started. The projects are funded by the EU Eastern Partnership Culture programme (European Neighborhood Partnership Instrument):

- "Regional Co-operation for Cultural Heritage Development" (ICOMOS Georgia) <http://www.rcchd.icomos.org.ge>
- "Strengthening Creative Industries in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia: Heritage Crafts – Common Platform for Development" (Georgian Arts & Culture Centre (GACC)).

Georgia Joins Creative Europe EU program

On February 24th 2015, in Brussels, the Georgian Minister of Culture and Monument Protection and the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Issues signed an agreement, making Georgia a member state of EU program "Creative Europe". The signing ceremony was held at the office of the Commission. Georgia is the first Eastern Partnership country to become a member of this program.

Joining Creative Europe will provide new opportunities for Georgia, help it to create jobs, aid the human and economic development, increase the presence of Georgian artists and help them in creating contacts.

Becoming a member of the Creative Europe program is a step forward for Georgia in the process of implementing the commitments formulated under the Association Agreement.

Membership of the program allows Georgian cultural organizations to submit their creative projects within Creative Europe's Culture and Media sub-programs and receive financing for implementing their ideas in cooperation with European partners.

Two Georgian cultural organisations have been awarded financial support within a Europe-wide program for creative projects after winning two separate contests. Tbilisi's Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre and CineDOC-Tbilisi Documentary Film Festival will have the financial backing of the Creative Europe program after they were announced among the winners of cultural contests within the project.

Creative Europe announced the Marjanishvili Theatre as winner of Creative Europe's Culture sub-program contest after their project European Theatre Laboratory: Theatre Meets Digital, presented in partnership with five other European venues, won the category. The project will bring together theatres and scientists in a bid to enrich theatre language and transfer it to digital space via new technology. The Marjanishvili Theatre developed the project as part of the European

Theatre Convention (ETC), a collaboration that includes the Theatre de la Manufacture from France and Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe from Germany.

The Tbilisi venue joined the ETC - a partnership of more than 40 leading European theatres - in April 2015.

The Media sub-program contest of Creative Europe also selected a Georgian organisation as its winner. The CineDOC-Tbilisi Documentary Film Festival became the first Georgian film festival to be selected in the Creative Europe program after it was awarded a € 27.000 financing prize for development.

Implemented in 2016:

- Memorandum of Cooperation with the Brussels Center for Fine Art (BOZAR)
- Regional Conference of the joint Council of Europe/European Union Program "Community-Led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns" (COMUS).
- Presentation of the Eastern Partnership Culture Program II
- Official presentation of the program "Creative Europe" by the European Commission representatives
- The Ministry became the member of ENCATC - the European network on cultural management and policy.
- The public service twinning program "Twinning" is underway

In accordance with the Internationalization Priority of the 2017-2018 Action Plan for Implementation of the Culture Strategy:

By 2017, Georgia became a member of the following international organizations

- International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA)
- Pan-European Federation for Cultural Heritage (EUROPA NOSTRA)
- Bureau of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape
- Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (the EPA)

In 2017, the cultural routes website - www.culturalroutes.gov.ge and on it the following routes were created:

- "European Route of Jewish Heritage"
- "European Route of Historical Thermal Towns"
- "Prehistoric Rock Painting"

In 2017, Georgia hosted the International Summer School of Eastern Partnership countries for the first time.

3.4.4 Direct professional co-operation

In Georgia, transnational cooperation involving institutes of fine arts and cultural heritage and local authorities for culture and trade unions are frequent. Most of the interesting and successful projects are initiated by individuals and NGOs or through the bilateral relations of various public and private organisations which have been initiated by personal contacts rather than as a matter of state policy.

One example: The Georgian Arts & Culture Centre (GACC) actively co-operates with the Concervazione Beni Culturali (Rome, Italy) in cultural heritage projects (European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards, 2007). This cooperation includes consultancies, seminars, training in the international practice of conservation, modern conservation materials, microbiological and other related issues.

In addition to the work carried out by the Georgian Arts & Culture Centre, there are a number of interesting projects carried out by NGOs include: Georgian Crafts Development Project; New Art Union Project "providing assistance to the development of contemporary art and to the formation of an art market in South Caucasus"; the Arts Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory AIRL project; the "Tbilisi Urban Development and Heritage Protection Public Monitoring Council" and the interdisciplinary newspaper "Iliazd" etc.

"Tbilisi-Basel-Freiburg" is a non-government international artist exchange programme which provides funds to Georgian contemporary artists to work and travel in Europe for 6 months. It started in 1998 and is supported by foreign partners: the Christoph Merian Stiftung IAAB programme (Artists' International Exchange Programme), Basel; Department of Culture of Freiburg municipality and the Arts Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory (AIRL).

Other significant examples of cultural transnational cooperation:

- *Georgian International Festival of Arts* in honour of Michael Tumanishvili – "Gift" (<http://www.giftfestival.ge>);
- *Tbilisi International Film Festival* (<http://www.tbilisifilmfestival.ge>);
- *Tbilisi International Jazz Festival and Black Sea Jazz in Batumi* (<http://www.easternpromotion.com>);
- *International Folk Festival "Chveneburebi"* (<http://www.chveneburi.net>);
- *The International Symposium on Traditional Polyphony*. With the support of UNESCO and the participants of the Symposium, the International Research Centre for Traditional Polyphony was established at the premises of Tbilisi State Conservatoire (2002) (<http://www.polyphony.ge>);
- In September 2013, the International Conference "[Notion of Culture as a Force for Economic Growth, New Approach for South Caucasus](#)" and in its framework the joint Exhibition of "The Best Heritage Crafts from South Caucasus" was held at the Radisson Blue Iveria (Tbilisi, Georgia). The events were organised in the framework of the Project "Strengthening the Creative Industries in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia: Heritage Crafts – a Common Platform for Development" funded by the European Union's Eastern Partnership Culture Programme.
- South Caucasus Contemporary Dance & Experimental Art Festival in Tbilisi <https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Caucasus-Contemporary-Dance-Experimental-Art-Festival-in-Tbilisi/231526500325899>
- In 2014, Armenia and Georgia implemented the project Cinema Express "Armenia-Georgia" under the auspices of Tbilisi and Yerevan International Film Festivals, which was supported by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, the Ministry of Culture of Armenia and the Heinrich Boell Foundation. The project aimed at the use of the cinema as an effective and powerful tool for intercultural dialogue, strengthening good neighbourly relations and bringing two countries closer.

Examples of good practice

International recognition

1. Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theater - a member of the European Theater Convention "ETC"
2. Nodar Dumbadze Youth Theater – a member of "ASSITEJ"
3. Music and Drama Theater - a member of the New European Theaters Association "NETA"

Georgian Arts and Culture Center www.gaccgeorgia.org

- **In 2016** Georgian Arts and Culture Center became the official representative of Europa Nostra in Georgia. Thus Georgia made a step forward for the integration in the European domain of cultural heritage and got its case for the preservation of its cultural and natural heritage heard on European scale.
- **In 2016** GACC became the member of World Crafts Council - Europe. It opens wider opportunities for the cooperation in the field of Heritage crafts development on European and world level, making way for a broader exchange of the experience accumulated in different countries and improving access to international resources.
- **2014-2015** Initiated by the Polish organization "Bridge to Georgia", GACC participated in the project "Get in Culture - Georgian Polish Cooperation" funded by the "Region in Transition" – RITA. (A program of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation conducted by the Education for Democracy Foundation). The project's leading partners in "Bridge to Georgia" are: Katowice Regional Center of Volunteers, the Georgian Arts and Culture Center and Youth Association Droni. The project aimed to support the development of Georgian regional museums through the exchange of experience with their Polish colleagues. The focus is on the development and

implementation of new educational programmes in cultural institutions, namely in museums, and on involving volunteers in that type of activity. The project also aims to establishment long-term contracts on joint collaboration and projects between Polish and Georgian museums.

Examples of good practice

South Caucasus Contemporary Dance and Experimental Art Festival in Tbilisi

South Caucasus Contemporary Dance and Experimental Art Festival in Tbilisi has been actively collaborating and co-creating with artists and institutions world wide. It tries to enable cooperation projects. To name few: Zurich based Swiss choreographer Salome Schneebeli (Morphologisches Institut and Roxi-Theater) developed together with Georgian artists and students of Tbilisi State Ballet School a dance installation *Geister, Gaeste und wilde Tiere*, which premiered in September in Basel and is now travelling to numerous other festivals and stages in Europe. More then 10 Georgian musicians, painters, designers, choreographers and dancers contributed to the piece in collaboration with Zurich and Basel based choreographers, stage designers and dancers.

The festival, in close partnership with Creative Dialogue (Madrid, Spain) Asmart Creative Hub (Baku, Azerbaijan) and the Georgian Art and Culture Center (Tbilisi, Georgia) organized a tour on creative crafts in Azerbaijan and Georgia in September 2016.

The festival enabled a participative performance created by YARAT – Baku Contemporary Art Center and Berlin-based Danish artist Christian Flasnaes, with the help of local Azerbaijanian visual artists.

3.4.5 Cross-border intercultural dialogue and co-operation

A project to set up a Caucasian network of Cultural Policies in Tbilisi (Georgia), Baku (Azerbaijan) and Yerevan (Armenia) was started in 2004. It aims at analysing the main problems and determinants for cultural policy in the region and at developing joint approaches in the development of cultural policies. Round tables on the exchange of experience in the development of strategic plans took place and possible functions of cultural observatories at Tbilisi, Baku and Yerevan are under discussion.

The project "Caucasian Network of Cultural Observatories" has revealed the problems of a regional scale connected with the consolidation of the non-governmental sector and municipal structures for development of the open civil society in the Caucasus; problems related to supporting the coexistence of various cultures in the Caucasian states (these problems are typical in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia to a variable extent).

Partners from Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan work together in the field of cultural industries, with special emphasis on the museum sector and traditional crafts. Round table meetings took place, and the participant co-operate in the production of case studies in the countries involved. (<http://www.gaccgeorgia.org/FrCultIndustries.htm>).

Since October 2012, the [Saturnalia](#) project shows works of artists from Moscow, St Petersburg, Samara and Rostov, either made recently or intended to be created right there, in Georgia itself. It is supported by Foundation Vladimir Smirnov and Konstantin Sorokin from Russia and TRAM (Transform Art Module) Foundation – a Georgian, non-governmental, non-profit organisation, working in the field of contemporary art.

Other cross-border projects in 2012 were:

- The cultural management training in Batumi organised by BIAFF with the support of OSI / OSGF;
- In September 2012 started a workshop for curators named "[CURATOR- PROFESSIONAL ID](#)" which was initiated by TRAM in cooperation with TASWIR Projects and with the support of the Goethe Institute. The project will take place in Telavi, Batumi and Tbilisi;

- The Centre of Contemporary Art - Tbilisi organised the 1st Tbilisi Triennial "Offside Effect" (see also <http://www.cca.ge/triennial/>).

For more information, see our [Intercultural Dialogue section](#).

Examples of good practice

Georgian Arts and Culture Center

2016 - GACC founded Tbilisi 1st International Summit of Crafts and Design "Ethno Fest 2016" gathering crafts makers of all generations from the south Caucasus and beyond. It combines expositions, training, communication and B2B-meetings with international and local buyers and aims to raise awareness on crafts, to support the international mobility of artisans and crafts products and contributes to the crafts market development. <http://gaccgeorgia.org/Crafts/Ethnofest.html>

YTA Union- Georgian Centre of OISTAT

Tbilisi Biennale of Stage Design is organized by the Valerian Gunia Union of Young Theatre Artists – Georgian Centre of OISTAT www.ytaunion.com

Tbilisi Biennale of Stage Design was created in order to contribute to the development of contemporary art in the Caucasus, and as a new professional edition to the international map of cultural festivals.

The Biennale aims to create conditions for professional development and the exchange of creative ideas amongst young stage designers, as well as to facilitate intercultural dialogue between young artists from the South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and Russia.

Partner – Theatre Union of the Russian Federation and Russian centre of Oistat

Supported by – Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia, Tbilisi Center of Cultural Events, South Caucasus Contemporary Dance and Experimental Art Festival in Tbilisi

3.4.6 Other relevant issues

The policy of support for the Georgian Diaspora is still vague and assistance from the state is very small. Organisational support for the Diaspora is the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its Department for Cultural Heritage and Relations with the Diaspora.

Until 2008, the policy of support of the Georgian diaspora was indistinct and the state assistance was very small. The organisational support of the diaspora was the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its Department for Cultural Heritage and Relations with the Diaspora.

In 2008, the State Minister for the Georgian Diaspora <http://www.diaspora.gov.ge> was appointed, which together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, develops the policy of support of the diaspora. However, the financing of the State Minister for the Georgian Diaspora is minimal: in 2008 – 200 000 GEL, in 2009 – 43 500 GEL, in 2010 – estimated 45 000 GEL.

Priorities for 2011-2014 - Office of State Minister in Diaspora Affairs of Georgia

Priority 1: Integration of Georgian diaspora in the homeland.

Activities:

- the annual celebration of the Diaspora day in Georgia and involvement of representatives of the Georgian diaspora in the cultural activities devoted to the Diaspora day;

- Foundation of Georgian Houses abroad and their support;
- holding business forums in Georgia and abroad;
- relation of Georgian companies with diaspora organisations;
- proposal of investment projects for Georgian businessmen acting abroad; and
- using the Georgian diaspora ties for attraction of foreign investment to Georgia.

Priority 2: Preservation of education and cultural heritage in the Georgian diaspora

Activities:

- supply of folklore ensembles with traditional garments and musical instruments;
- supply of Sunday schools with relevant literature;
- support of information resources and cultural activities;
- advancement of Internet connection with the diaspora and development of online projects;
- creation / popularisation of Georgian TV and other media projects abroad; and
- promotion of student mobility programmes.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been developing a strategy in this line as well for 2010:

Strategic priority 4: Citizens of Georgia and diaspora abroad

- travel, study and business abroad; and
- relations with the diaspora.

Strategic priority 5: Awareness of Georgia

- objective information campaign; and
- international cultural cooperation.

The most important priority is "Awareness of Georgia", which is dominant for the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia as well.

Main programmes / activities by priority:

- conducting an effective information campaign; and
- intensification of international cultural cooperation.

Expected results:

- effective opposition to negative propagation;
- dissemination of timely and objective information about the processes taking place in the country on the international scene;
- awareness / improvement of the cultural and intellectual potentiality of Georgia; and
- initiating various projects in cooperation with the UN education, science and culture organisations.

Priorities for 2011-2014 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Priority: economic and cultural diplomacy

International cultural cooperation plays an important role in the creation of a positive and objective image of Georgia worldwide. Demonstration of national culture and intellectual potentiality may become an effective instrument of foreign

policy, which will promote the implementation of foreign political and economic interests through the building of an adequate image of Georgia.

Activities:

- export support and promotion of Georgian products in new markets;
- promotion of foreign investments within its competence;
- promotion of diversification of power supply routes;
- promotion of Georgian culture and intellectual potentiality abroad; and
- cooperation in frameworks of BSEC and GUAM.

Other

The Georgian Centre for Relations with Compatriots Residing Abroad was financed, in the amount of 102 200 GEL from the 2006 budget. The establishment of the spiritual-cultural centre for Phereidan Georgians (residing in Iran) was assigned 219 600 GEL. Contacts with the Diaspora of "Georgian Hebrews" in Israel and Muslim Georgians in Turkey are under progress (see ➡ [chapter 3.4.2](#)). The cultural activity of representatives of Diasporas is also supported by the Foundation of His Holiness and Beatitude, Archbishop of [Mtskheta-Mtshkheta-Mtshkheta](#) and Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia Ilya II – "Chveneburebi".

Examples of good practice

YTA Union

"Diverse Georgia – Civil Society Platform for Cultural Diversity. Elaboration of a Package of the Non-Governmental Sector Recommendations Concerning the Implementation of the Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions" 2015, www.culturaldiversitygeorgia.com
Project is realized in the frames of the PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME, [UNESCO](#).

Project Goal:

Promotion of creative work and diversity of cultural expressions through raising awareness of the civil society and institutional development in the cultural sphere (in line with the Major Programme IV, Strategic Objective 8; Main Line of Action 2).

Project Objectives:

Conducting preparatory work for the implementation of the 2005 Paris Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions:

- Creation of a database of institutional and human resources;
- Creation of a platform of non-governmental organisations which will participate in the implementation of the Convention;
- Elaboration of a package of recommendations on the Convention implementation based on the results of round table and focus group discussions;
- Promotion of the Convention and UNESCO

Examples of good practice

YTA Union

"Development of Pilot Scheme for Monitoring Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions"

www.culturaldiversitygeorgia.com

Project is realized in the frames of the PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME, [UNESCO](#)

Project Goal

Promoting the diversity of cultural expressions through monitoring the commitments undertaken by the Georgian Government after ratification of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and by means of raising public awareness (in line with the Major Programme IV, Strategic Objective 8; Main Line of Action 2).

Project Objectives

1. Monitoring of implementation of the 2005 Paris Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions:
 - development of the Convention implementation monitoring methodology as a result of round tables;
 - development of the implementation monitoring pilot scheme;
 - collecting and processing information of the activities implemented in the regions by the non-governmental sector and municipalities in accordance with the Convention;
 - monitoring of the reflection of the Convention in the government strategy by the public sector and monitoring of the practical implementation of the Convention (by selected communities);
 - Information analysis and wrap-up conference;
2. Promotion of the Convention and UNESCO.

4. Current issues in cultural policy development and debate

4.1 Main cultural policy issues and priorities

During recent years cultural policy in Georgia has been influenced by the availability of financial and administrative resources. The main objective of cultural policy (before 2004) was the maintenance and support of a centralised system. The creation of a decentralised model and the redistribution of powers were supported only on a declarative level.

A systematic change in cultural policy can be seen at the end of 2003. Government priorities shifted and were focused on institutional reform, protection of cultural heritage and rehabilitation of infrastructure in the sphere of culture. Plans to optimise the public cultural network resulted in restructuring and down-sizing, and a reorganisation of public institutions of culture into other forms of ownership.

In practical terms, the current institutional reform has led to changes in legislation (see [chapter 5](#)) which resulted in a strengthening of the centralised system, extension of structures and their unification, instead of diversification. The policy of state control has been reinforced, however, the problem of distinct delimitation of the authorities, typical for Georgia in the last 25 years, has not been solved yet (there are some facts of unlawful parallelism of functions of executive authority at the national and local levels). This is a result of the inexplicit functions of these structures or from the contradictions between the performance of the legislative and executive powers.

In the post-revolutionary period (since 2004), experiments with entrepreneurship and total privatisation of the cultural industries began. However, against the background of modified legislation and the institutional model of centralisation, the cultural policy pursued did not provide a systematic capital inflow, but was focused on the "blind" application of market logic to the culture sphere. This strategy failed, both in terms of investor interest and in terms of development of institutions and infrastructure.

Until 2010, the idea that art and culture should serve economic growth, contribute to an increase in exports and employment, and that culture should be devoted to the positive development of the state and its image, was not very popular. Therefore, there are inconsistencies between attempts to implement the business model and its centralisation excluding such attempts in principle.

At the same time some of the sub-strategic policy lines have been successful:

- **Protection** of cultural heritage has seen much increased public and private funding to the development of institutions responsible for the protection of monuments.
- **Studies** focused on the issues of restoration and conservation, and archaeology and palaeontology. Supported by the Ministry of Education and Science.
- **Cultural animation** as an instrument for providing cultural democracy through participation of a large number of viewers in various social activities has gained force, especially in the post-war period (since 2008).
- **Dissemination of culture** associated with the super-communicative ability of modern culture, with digital technology, the redistribution of cultural products, with the development of "creative industries", has had increasing governmental support.
- **Art** created by modern artists is not currently successful. This sphere is relatively consistently supported by the state, but this is an area of cultural policy where elements of paternalism are noticeable. Support for cultural **education** is poorly supported. In general, the policy of cultural education developed by the influential Ministry of Science and Education is implemented according to the formal aspect of the Bologna Process and does not take into account its ability to make correlations with the tradition of creative education in Georgia.

The coalition "Georgian Dream" which has won the parliamentary elections in October 2012 has formed the new cabinet of ministers. Respectively, the new leadership of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection has started to develop a new strategy and new concept of cultural policy.

The priorities of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia in 2013-2014 were:

- Georgian cultural identity preservation, protection and development of tangible and intangible cultural heritage;
- supporting the creation and restoration of cultural centres in the regions of Georgia; the use of culture as a driving force for regional development; involvement of the regions of Georgia in international cultural life;
- supporting the development of modern art, conducting intercultural dialogue to promote Georgian culture and to involve Georgian artists in the international art space;
- promoting arts education in the capital and regions;
- implementation of cultural projects in the conflict regions in the process of confidence building;
- promoting the creation of a favourable legal environment for successful cooperation between the public and private sectors, provision of additional sources to support the cultural industries;
- promoting the development of the creative industries (cultural tourism, cinema, design, fashion, crafts...);
- active engagement of national minorities living in Georgia in public life through the promotion of cultural diversity;
- providing access by socially vulnerable people to various fields of culture; and
- promoting the involvement of Georgian communities outside Georgia in the country's cultural life.

In 2016 the strategic document Culture Strategy 2025 was adopted (SEE Chapter 2.3. Cultural policy objectives)

<http://cultureandsports.gov.ge/CulturePoli/კულტურის-სტრატეგია.aspx?lang=en-US>

The document includes the following sections:

- Chapter I: Vision and Mission;
- Chapter II: Strategic Goals (8 goals);
- Chapter III: Sector-specific Tasks
- Chapter IV: Strategy Implementation: 1. Monitoring and Evaluation, 2. Risk Analysis;
- Annex No.1 – Glossary;
- Annex No. 2 – Strategy Elaboration and Methodology

(Note: The principle of classification and the order of tasks has caused discussions in a professional community, as has the division of the structure of the strategic document).

The formulation of the Strategic Goals and the sub-goals therein is of an integrative nature, which is an obvious innovation in the practice of the cultural policy of Georgia.

Chapter II: Strategic Goals

1. Awareness Raising and Education

Goal: Culture and creativity is integrated across all levels of the education system and the public is aware of its importance.

1.1. Objective: Policymakers, cultural professionals, key stakeholders, representatives of other sectors and the general public fully acknowledge the importance of culture and creativity and its role in the country's sustainable development and social well-being.

1.2. Objective: Culture and creativity constitute an integral part of formal pre-school, general and of nonformal education. They develop creative skills and enhance interest towards culture among children and youth.

1.3. Objective: Higher and vocational educational institutions produce highly qualified professionals for culture and other related fields, create interdisciplinary programmes for students studying culture, technologies, business and other areas and develop academic research in collaboration with research institutions.

1.4. Objective: Professional training and life-long learning programmes fully meet the requirements of the contemporary labour market and contribute to the increasing competitiveness of cultural professionals.

2. Access to Culture and Cultural Diversity

Goal: Culture is accessible to all members of the society and the freedom of cultural expression is safeguarded.

2.1. Objective: Culture is made accessible to all, including the communities in mountainous regions, municipalities adjacent to the state borders, occupied territories and across the dividing lines of occupied territories.

2.2. Objective: All members of the society, including vulnerable groups, youth and minorities are actively engaged in cultural life and have access to cultural infrastructure and resources.

2.3. Objective: The Georgian diaspora actively participates in the country's cultural life and their cultural identity is preserved.

2.4. Objective: Cultural diversity, freedom of expression of different cultures and their interaction empowers the state and contributes to the society's development.

3. Culture and Other Key Areas

Goal: Culture and creativity help other key areas, contribute in a wider sense to the State's sustainable development and social well-being.

3.1 Objective: Culture is integrated into the development policies of different sectors, different government agencies and municipalities based on regular consultations between the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and other important agencies and stakeholders.

3.2 Objective: Regular cooperation among cultural professionals, public, civil and private sectors brings about more effective decision-making and problem-solving methods and results in a better quality of life.

4. Funding of Culture

Goal: The sustainability of cultural funding is safeguarded, diverse and transparent funding mechanisms are introduced and employment in the cultural sector is attractive.

4.1. Objective: Culture is funded from all budgetary levels; from diversified sources - innovative funding and stimulation measures are introduced, there is greater motivation for the private sector to allocate funds for culture; funds are distributed transparently and efficiently.

4.2. Objective: The State helps the creation of employment opportunities for the specialists of culture and arts; supports the provision of convenient working conditions for them and, considering the specifics of cultural professions, respectively develops social protection mechanisms.

5. Cultural Infrastructure and New Technologies

Goal: The infrastructure of culture is developed, necessary professional environment is provided and the application of new technologies is ensured.

5.1. Objective: The development and effective management of the cultural infrastructure contributes to producing and disseminating high-quality cultural products and services, preserving cultural properties and improving working environments in accordance with international standards.

6. Creative Industries

Goal: Creative industries represent an important source for job creation, economic growth and innovation, it is a competitive sphere of activity

6.1. Objective: Creative industries in Georgia have a favourable environment for development, the output of higher quality and competitive products and services is increased.

6.2. Objective: The protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) and related rights contributes to the development of creative industries in a competitive and fair environment.

7. Internationalisation of Culture

Goal: Georgia is an active participant of international cultural processes; it is a subject of interest for the rest of the world with its rich cultural heritage, vibrant cultural life and arts.

7.1. Objective: The internationalisation of the cultural sector helps the development of culture, increases the nation's export capacity and empowers its image.

8. Principles of the Governance of Culture

Goal: Cultural policy is evidence-based and professionals and the general public participate in an open and transparent policy-making process.

8.1. Objective: Elaboration and implementation of the cultural policy is guided by the principles of Good Governance.

8.2. Objective: Research data and statistics related to culture, its quality and accessibility lay foundations of the cultural policy.

Specific tasks (Chapter III: Sector-specific Tasks) are based on traditional forms of art and culture. This section of the document was based only on those expert opinions that were collected by the Ministry in the process of developing the Strategy (no strategies and full-scale research on the forms of art had been available). Accordingly, the need for scientific, statistical research for the development of sub-strategies for each form of culture was declared.
<https://tinyurl.com/y9xhm3cc>

Chapter III: Sector-specific Tasks

- Cultural Heritage
- Cultural Tourism
- Libraries and Archives
- Museums
- Traditional Crafts
- Architecture
- Audiovisual sector
- Design
- Literature and Publishing
- Music
- Performing arts
- Visual arts
- Media and Broadcasting

The development of sub-strategies began with the implementation of the 2017-2018 Action Plan for Implementation of the Culture Strategy (SEE 2.3 Cultural Policy Objectives).

4.2 Specific policy issues and recent debates

4.2.1 Conceptual issues of policies for the arts

Cultural policy has been gradually formed and developed depending on the domestic and international situation.

Until August 2008, culture was not really a feature of foreign policy. In the common context of intensification of centralisation, culture was perceived as a tool of domestic policy aimed at demonstration of the adherence to traditional values, on the one side, (strengthening of priorities in cultural heritage), and as a globalisation instrument, on the other side. The corner stone of the globalisation policy is education, in particular creative education. The Ministry of Education and Science has carried out radical reform of the education policy in a very tough way, while the Ministry of Culture and Cultural Heritage - which lacks its own concept and vision - obeys the directives of the Ministry of Education and Science, which is more powerful both from political and financial aspects. As a result, in the sphere of creative education, problems are aggravated by clashes and conflicts of traditional methods with new ones.

At the same time, the political establishment thought that sports were the more effective instrument of PR on the international scene and inside the country, which resulted in the integration of these two spheres in one ministry in 2005. Such integration turned out to be ineffective institutionally and the financing of culture often suffered.

The shift in policy following the Russian-Georgian military conflict helped to focus on the promotion of culture as a facility for building a positive international image of Georgia. Consequently, this is reflected in the financing of culture (in spite of the war and world crisis, financing of culture has been growing year after year) and in 2010 – in changes of infrastructure when the Ministry was divided into two bodies – the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Sports.

Culture has benefited in the post-war situation which has stimulated the joint efforts of different ministries and authorities aimed at the achievement of their objectives.

In 2011-2014, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection and Ministry of Foreign Affairs will have joint strategic priorities and therefore attention will be paid to the effective involvement of UNESCO in the issues of cultural heritage protection and education in the Georgian territories occupied by Russia.

The coalition "Georgian Dream" which has won the parliamentary elections in October 2012 has formed the new cabinet of ministers. Respectively, the new leadership of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection has started to develop a new strategy and new concept of cultural policy.

During the period after the Parliamentary Elections of 1 October 2012, the parliamentary committee for science, education and culture of the new government initiated debates on a new draft theatre law. The new law was discussed at the round tables arranged by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Georgian media.

The Law on Professional Theatres was adopted in 2013 and appeared to be a hasty response to the Law on State Theatres of 2006.

The new law considers strengthening the position of art directors as the 2006 Law on Public Theatres mainly belittled the competences of art directors and vested sole authority in the public theatre managers compared to the Law on Public Theatres from 1999.

2016

In "Cultural Strategy 2025" Specific Tasks are respectively developed (See new strategy document "Cultural Strategy 2025" (01.07.2016) <https://tinyurl.com/y9xhm3cc>)

Architecture, Audiovisual sector, Design, Literature & Publishing, Music, Performing arts and Visual arts issues are located in Chapter III: Sector-specific Tasks.

Architecture

- Promote architecture as a complex discipline bearing cultural, creative and aesthetic value;
- On the one hand ensure its institutional and legal position within the cultural sector and on the other hand consider it as a cultural resource in economic and construction policies;
- Introduce a synchronised policy of spatial planning and cultural heritage protection - consider the principles of integrated conservation and energy efficiency; create environmentally-friendly architecture and apply new technologies;
- Follow the principles of good governance when architecture intervenes in the cultural landscape and engage experts, professionals and interest groups in the decision making process; Improve legal and administrative regulations and empower law enforcement in regard to issues connected to spatial planning, relevant expertise and standards and licensing of architects;
- Ensure private sector motivation (by introducing competitions, awards and other mechanisms) in order to achieve higher architectural standards of the built environment;
- Help Georgian architects to participate in international architectural competitions and events and promote their participation in experience-sharing programmes at foreign agencies

Audiovisual sector

- Develop services and professions entailed by the production, post-production and distribution of audio-visual content;
- Develop regulatory mechanisms for the audiovisual sector (e.g. box office transparency, designation of age limit, dubbing quality, etc.) by employing best international practices (EU Directive on Audiovisual Media Services);
- Promote Georgia's convenience as a filming location and facilitate international co-production by developing necessary infrastructure, legislation and system of incentives (cash rebate, tax rebate, credit incentives, insurance etc.);
- Establish the national cinema reserve in order to preserve and organise the film heritage and ensure the public's accessibility to the Georgian and world cinematography;
- Facilitate the development of multifunctional cultural-educational centres and/or of appropriate cinemas and alternative means of screening (e.g.: mobile cinemas) for the purpose of ensuring film screenings;
- Considering the importance of visual and audio effects for audiovisual industry in general, facilitate the mobilisation of necessary human and technical resources - elaborate professional training programmes and the system of incentives, ensure access to appropriate facilities and equipment etc.;
- Foster the development of the multi-media and games industry by promoting new business models and simplifying the ways for the internationalisation of the games industry (on-line platforms, international networks, etc.).

Design

- Raise awareness of policymakers, the representatives of business sector and general public about design as an interdisciplinary sector comprising arts, innovation, creativity and technology and about its importance in cultural, social, economic and environmental dimension;
- Create integrated platforms for designers, researchers, technicians, engineers and entrepreneurs in order to develop and deliver joint innovative products;
- To accomplish the development and international promotion of the national design sector, empower various sorts of design companies (e.g. spatial, fashion, industrial) and strengthen their international competitiveness (e.g. develop business skills, create new business models, facilitate participation in local and international competitions; support design and fashion festivals, etc.);
- Support the research and the use of intangible cultural heritage and national themes and elements (e.g. traditional costume, ornament, carving, embroidery, etc.) in the design industry.

Literature and Publishing

- In order to develop the reading habits/skills and literacy of the public, particularly among children and youth and promote literature in general, work with different organisations (e.g.: the National Parliamentary Library, the Writers' House, the Literature Museum, the Service Development Agency, etc.) and support special projects and events (e.g. artistic evenings, literature competitions, book festivals, mobile libraries, meetings with writers, etc.);
- For the protection and development of the national literature, including literary heritage, set up necessary mechanisms and a convenient environment to create, publish and translate new works and also make them accessible; introduce residency programmes for the Georgian writers;
- Support participation in international events, such as festivals, exhibitions and competitions (e.g. the Frankfurt Book Fair) in order to develop and ensure international promotion of the Georgian literature;
- Sustain the teaching of creative writing at all levels of education and encourage the development of literature studies and criticism;
- Support the development of children's literature (including illustrated and interactive publication) through special funding mechanisms (special projects, competitions, etc.);
- Support the translation of Georgian literature into other languages and vice-versa; provide training programmes for the translators of Georgian literature and develop professional networks of translators;
- In order to ensure the development of print distribution networks, study local market and in accordance with international best practices, elaborate measures for encouraging book quality control and incentives for publishers and distributors;
- Facilitate the production and distribution of different types of (cultural, scientific and technical) literature in order to support publishing companies;
- Taking into consideration innovative approaches and new technologies, elaborate special training programmes, in order to develop, distribute and promote e-books.

Music

- Improve legal and administrative regulations in order to develop a coherent and continuous system of music education: develop professional performing skills and thinking in parallel with general education and practice in mastering (the instruments) from basic education to higher education;
- Improve the quality of education (determine teaching standards and methodologies, ensure their implementation into practice, especially in the regions, etc.);
- Support the development of a favourable study environment (musical instruments, study materials and scores, etc.) in music educational institutions;
- Collect, document, publish, and promote the artistic heritage of national professional performers and composers;
- Support and promote national composers (e.g. encourage the integration of new pieces of work into the repertoires of national music companies, encourage critical studies of music, organise thematic competitions for revealing best new musical compositions, etc.);
- Support different events, festivals, competitions and master classes in the sphere of music, especially classical music, in order to ensure professional development of national composers and music performers, facilitate the participation of Georgian musicians in various international events (competitions, festivals, residency programmes, etc.);
- Support the development of music industry (record labels, sound recording studios, production companies, distribution networks, etc.) by developing new business models, new technology, appropriate professions and services, supporting merger and coproduction of networks and clusters, enforce the protection of intellectual property, develop incentives, etc.

Performing arts

- Improve legal and regulatory framework of the performing arts sector in order to raise administrative effectiveness and quality across the sector;

- Support the development and popularisation of the national dramaturgy (e.g. consider the integration of new works by contemporary Georgian playwrights into the repertoire of national theatres, introduce thematic competitions in order to reveal outstanding new plays, encourage performing arts criticism, etc.);
- For advancing the professional level of performing arts, facilitate the organisation of different events, festivals, master-classes, also support the participation of the Georgian actors, directors, playwrights, choreographers, etc. in international events (competitions, festivals, residencies and etc.);
- Improve educational standards and teaching methodologies, legal and administrative regulations for instructors' licence and certification procedures in order to develop continuous and adapted system of choreographic education;
- Facilitate the betterment of learning environment (study equipment and other materials) in the institutions of choreographic education;
- Support the development of circus art by ensuring that circus education is adequately represented in the wider system of professional education and by providing access to necessary facilities.

Visual arts

- In order to allow the development of an effective visual arts education and improve its quality, advance legal and administrative regulations of visual arts education, designate teaching standards and learning methodologies, etc.;
- Support the development of the institutions of visual arts education (provide work inventories and study materials, etc.);
- Create and develop the system of visual arts schools in order to develop professional skills and thinking;
- Deliver special incentives (e.g. thematic projects, competitions, awards) to encourage artists;
- Support the development of corresponding business models and business skills for the personnel of galleries, curators and arts consultants in order to promote visual arts and stimulate dynamics of domestic art market;
- Facilitate the organisation of periodic events, arts residencies and galleries and encourage the participation in international projects in order to raise the interest of international artists and curators towards Georgia;
- Create a multifunctional facility of culture - the museum of contemporary art, in order to ensure national and international promotion of visual arts, its protection and demonstration.

4.2.2 Heritage issues and policies

Cultural heritage has always been of great importance and pride in Georgia.

Responsible bodies

The main body responsible for the protection of cultural heritage is the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport, in particular the Department of Cultural Heritage and the Committee for Protection of Cultural Heritage. Some responsibilities are also allocated to the National Committee of UNESCO under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Georgian Academy of Sciences and the State Department of Archives under the Ministry of Justice. Natural heritage is the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment.

The Department of Cultural Heritage

The Department of Cultural Heritage has developed a policy for the preservation of cultural heritage in Georgia and its long-term strategy to create a heritage management system with the following aims:

- registration-certification of monuments of cultural heritage;
- creation of a full database of cultural heritage;
- protection, defence and detection of heritage monuments;
- programmes for rehabilitation of historical cities;
- popularisation of heritage in Georgia and abroad; and
- involvement of international organisations for heritage protection.

This enabled the development, promotion and implementation of the policy to preserve the cultural heritage elaborated by the Department of Cultural Heritage. Consequently, in 2006 and in 2007, because of the increased financing, the intense work of registration and certification of monuments of cultural heritage was being performed. The range of archaeological studies was also extended.

In 2007, the new **Law on Cultural Heritage** was adopted (see ➡ [chapter 5.3.3](#)) and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia developed new strategic directions (see ➡ [chapter 2.3](#) and ➡ [chapter 4.1](#)) and the state programme for the protection of cultural heritage.

Main programmes / activities under the strategy (2007):

1. Programme on the Preservation of Historic Cities and Towns:

1. development of historic safeguard plans;
2. conducting an inventory on historic cities and towns; and
3. establishment of cultural heritage protection zones in historic cities and towns.

Activities under the programme include the rapid inventory of the historic core of Tbilisi, Tbilisi Safeguard Plan, Batumi Safeguard Plan.

2. Inventory of sites of cultural heritage interest throughout Georgia and programme for establishing protection zones:

- certification of cultural heritage monuments according to contemporary requirements across Georgia and development of systems of monument protection zones.

Activities under this programme include: The Ministry held a tender for Establishment of Cultural Heritage Protection Zones. The tender was announced for the following services:

Cities

- Establishment of cultural heritage protection zones for Kutaisi, Signaghi, Telavi, Mtskheta.

Archaeological zones

- Establishment of archaeological protection zones in Tbilisi and Mtskheta; and
- Establishment of archaeological protection zones of burial grounds and ancient settlements of the Alazani Valley.

Historical Areas

- Establishment of cultural heritage protection zones for immovable monuments in Vardzia-Khertvisi-Oloda and its surroundings.

Inventory of Cultural Heritage Monuments

- The Cultural Heritage Department regularly updates the list of cultural heritage monuments. The recording of monuments with the aim of their listing on a Public Register is an important mechanism that allows these properties to be legally protected. In parallel with the inventory of immovable monuments of cultural heritage, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection proceeded with the study and classification of moveable monuments, an

assessment of the state of the collections and recording of the respective items. This will eventually allow determination of the artistic value, as well as the market price of each sample, and thus promote the formation of a legal art market. Intensive work was conducted to identify those items of cultural heritage interest which are in urgent need of conservation and rehabilitation. The Division of Museums and Moveable Monuments and a committee of art historians specialising in modern Georgian art has been engaged in recording decorative paintings / drawings (sketches) with the aim of their being listed on a state register.

3. Programme for Rescuing Cultural Heritage Objects of Outstanding Value:

- organisation of diagnostic studies on endangered cultural heritage sites and preparation of rehabilitation designs; and
- emergency conservation / restoration and rehabilitation of immoveable and moveable monuments.

The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection has established strategic partnership with the Fund for the Protection and Rescuing of Georgia's Historic Monuments in the realm of cultural heritage preservation. The ministry and the Fund jointly plan schedules for the rehabilitation / restoration of cultural heritage monuments.

4. Programme for Cultural Heritage Monitoring Throughout Georgia:

- elaboration of efficient tools to ensure proper maintenance and preventive conservation of cultural heritage monuments, as well as risk preparedness; and
- cooperation with local self-government bodies and their involvement in cultural heritage preservation activities.

The collecting of information on the state of preservation of cultural heritage sites in Tbilisi and Batumi, the exercise of state control over the projects agreed upon with the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection, the processing of applications addressed to the ministry and the arranging of working meetings with representatives of the self-governing bodies are the main monitoring tasks.

5. Programme for the Establishment of Analytical and Information Network on Cultural Heritage:

- innovative reorganisation of the integrated information system of Georgia's cultural heritage and adoption of contemporary methods of cultural heritage management;
- digitalisation of data and creation of an integrated database; and
- web-site development and management.

Activities include:

- a) Innovative reorganisation of the integrated information system of Georgia's cultural heritage and adoption of contemporary tools of cultural heritage management;
- b) Creation of Digital Topographic Maps in Georgia; participation in the joint project signed by the Georgian and Japanese governments on 21 December 2004 (from 2005 onwards).

6. Programme for the Promotion of Georgia's Cultural Heritage:

- promotion of educational activities, exhibitions, preparation of publications and translations, independent initiatives and projects.

The following publications were prepared through cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection and the Giorgi Chubinashvili National Research Centre of Georgian Art History and Monument

Preservation within the framework of the State Programme for Cultural Heritage Preservation 2006, under the aegis of the Promotion of Georgia's Cultural Heritage.

7. Programme for Museum Reform:

- reorganisation of museums and museum-reserves, improvement of their material and technical infrastructure and development of modern tools of management;
- diagnostic study of museum collections, conservation / restoration of museum exhibits;
- certification of exhibits in line with modern requirements;
- improvement of museum management across Georgia; and
- regaining of cultural and educational functions of museums.

Georgia has more than two hundred museums of various profiles. With a view to promoting museum activities, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection, through its museum programme, supported a number of projects in and outside Tbilisi. Several publications containing methodological guidance on museum management were financed to facilitate reforms in the museum sector in order to achieve international standards.

The progress in recent years reached a climax in 2007 when with the completion of the restoration of the historic part of Signakhi (financed by Cartu Group) and the Signakhi Museum was established. This is the first museum of international standards.

8. Programme for the Promotion of Cultural Heritage Research Institutions

- establishment and promotion of conservation / restoration and diagnostic laboratories and research centres; and
- adoption of contemporary principles of management in research institutions.

The data obtained will be used for developing a conservation plan for the monastery, the implementation of which will be ensured by the Cyprian side. By the initiative of the government of the Republic of Cyprus, this old Georgian monastery will be included in major tourist itineraries.

9. Cooperation with International Organisations

The National Agency for Cultural Heritage of Georgia

The National Agency for Cultural Heritage of Georgia (established in 2008 in accordance with the *Decree of the President of Georgia*) has been constituted on the basis of the existing complex monuments of national and global significance. It represents their totality and is their legal successor. Fourteen complex monuments of national and world value are incorporated in the new agency (<http://heritagesites.ge/>):

- The Mtskheta Archaeological Museum-Reserve;
- Vardzia Historical-Architectural Museum-Reserve;
- Uplistsikhe Historical-Architectural Museum-Reserve;
- R. Ksani Gorge Historical-Architectural Museum-Reserve;
- Petra-Castle Archaeological-Architectural Museum-Reserve;
- Gonio-Apsarosi Archaeological-Architectural Museum-Reserve;
- Kldekari Historical-Architectural Museum-Reserve;
- Parmen Zakaraia Nokalakevi Architectural-Archaeological Museum-Reserve;
- Ekvtime Takhaishvili Archaeological Museum-Reserve of the Country of Guria
- R. Didi Liakhvi Gorge State Museum-Reserve;
- Kutaisi Historical-Architectural Museum-Reserve;
- Stepantsminda History Museum;
- Borjomi Local History Museum; and

- State Museum of Niko Pirozmanishvili

The National Agency for Cultural Heritage of Georgia carries out the following activities:

- preservation, protection and promotion of museum-reserves, moveable and immoveable monuments and sites of cultural heritage;
- support and facilitation of management of scientific research, consultative and expertise activities;
- introduction and implementation of up-to-date technologies in cultural heritage
- support and deepening of international cooperation;
- study of the monuments and samples of cultural heritage, clarification, research and promotion of their historical, scientific and artistic values;
- preparation and publication of scientific works in cultural heritage
- documentation and inventory of monuments and sites of cultural heritage;
- research expertise on cultural heritage monuments and sites and rehabilitation projects; and
- preparation and implementation of cultural, educational and tourist programmes for the purposes of understanding and promotion of cultural heritage of Georgia.

The aims of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage of Georgia are:

- preservation, protection, research and promotion of cultural heritage of Georgia;
- museum-reserves infrastructure development, preparation and implementation of education and awareness programmes;
- cooperation with leading foreign scientific and education centres and establishments engaged in monument rehabilitation;
- monument inventory and creation of cultural heritage database; and
- implementation of state-of-the-art monument restoration technologies.

The Strategic Directions of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage of Georgia (2016-2017):

1. REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION AND ADAPTIVE REUSE INVENTORY,
2. DOCUMENTATION AND PASSPORTIZATION
3. CULTURE HERITAGE POPULARIZATION
4. DEVELOPING MUSEUMS AND MUSEUM RESERVES
5. INFRASTRUCTURE OF INFORMATION
6. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
7. INTAGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE
8. ARCHAEOLOGY

<http://memkvidreoba.gov.ge/>

<https://www.heritagesites.ge/uploads/files/5b4e49771e345.pdf>

<https://www.heritagesites.ge/uploads/files/%E1%83%A1%E1%83%90%E1%83%A5%E1%83%90%E1%83%A0%E1%83%97%E1%83%95%E1%83%94%E1%83%9A%E1%83%9D%E1%83%A1%20%E1%83%99%E1%83%A3%E1%83%9A%E1%83%A2%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A0%E1%83%A3%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%20%E1%83%9B%E1%83%94%E1%83%9B%E1%83%99%E1%83%95%E1%83%98%E1%83%93%E1%83%A0%E1%83%94%E1%83%9D%E1%83%91%E1%83%90%202016-2017%20%E1%83%A1%E1%83%90%E1%83%A9%E1%83%95%E1%83%94%E1%83%9C%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%94%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98.pdf>

According to the 2016 data, the staff of Cultural Heritage Protection National Agency comprises 289 employees; the average salary is 646 GEL (258.4 USD)

2015 (fact)	11,361,377 GEL
2016 (plan)	6,531,000 GEL

Decentralisation process

Great changes have taken place in the management of cultural heritage. In 2014, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia delegated most of its obligations in the management of cultural heritage to the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia. This makes the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia increasingly responsible for most of the decisions in the field of cultural heritage, such as an inventory of objects, activity planning, management of public procurement, monitoring, research, management of the sites of world heritage, international relations, and so on.

Such decentralisation would be useful, if it implied strengthening the protection of the interests of the historic cultural heritage on the different levels of government. However, the experience shows that such withdrawal of its powers by the Ministry rather demonstrates a policy of "washing hands of" responsibilities. An example is the drafting of amendments to the *Law on Cultural Heritage* in connection with the regulations on revocation of the status of a monument (29.09.2013). The amendment implies simplifying the rules for delisting heritage of local importance in the "extraordinary and special occasions of national importance". The amendment poses a potential threat to the majority of sites and this consequently has led to a serious campaign against the amendment. As a result of this campaign, the hearing of the draft law in the Parliament has been postponed, but the proposed amendment to the law is still in the Parliament.

An adverse change in the administration and management of the cultural heritage is the cancellation of the Experts' Panel - an advisory body to the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia on major issues, such as the granting and revoking the status of a monument, proposals for nomination WHL, etc. The Panel has been replaced by the Intergovernmental Council, composed of specialists from outside the field, including representatives of the Ministries of the Economy, Finance, Regional Development, Culture and the Prime Minister's Office, etc. This change is directly contrary to the Law on Cultural Heritage (2007), which states that "the board shall consist of field experts and public figures". This also became the subject of protest by civil society organisations.

The continuing pressure from the economy sector on cultural heritage has led to additional negative changes.

There is major controversy surrounding the Sakdrisi site, the oldest known gold mine in the world, which was declared a cultural heritage site in 2006. This status was revoked in 2013 to allow exploitation of the site for mining, which has united protests from different cultural and legal NGOs. However, the protests against the government's controversial decisions, which are sometimes contrary to law, have not led to positive results: the accelerated destruction of Sakdrisi demonstrates the attitude of both business and the Government to cultural heritage and to the issues of harmonisation of the cost-effective cultural policy and transparent management of cultural heritage.

Another case that illustrates the conflict between economic development and protection of cultural heritage is a huge construction project called "Panorama Tbilisi" in the Old City.

The case of Sakdrisi and project Panorama Tbilisi are typical examples of how economic growth is in direct opposition to the preservation and protection of cultural heritage, rather than creating synergies of both those spheres as accepted by international standards. Moreover, such a policy is in conflict with international conventions on the protection of cultural heritage, signed by Georgia (see also: <http://www.heritagesites.ge/upload/file/1419424329.pdf> and http://www.euroeastculture.eu/struct_file.php?id_a=879)

This dualistic first stage of the Georgian Dream's ruling has changed the policy based on expert approaches since 2015.

The "Culture Strategy 2025" approved in 2016 is one of the best examples of a transparent and open process in creating a public document. The cultural heritage section of the Strategy (Chapter III: Sector-specific Tasks and Cultural Heritage) is largely based on ICOMOS-Georgia Regional Office Research and ICOM recommendations.

"Cultural Strategy 2025" (01.07.2016) (See new strategy document "Cultural Strategy 2025" (01.07.2016) <https://tinyurl.com/y9xhm3cc>)

Chapter III:

Sector-specific Tasks

Cultural Heritage

- Introduce the Code on Cultural Heritage in compliance with ratified international conventions, in order to accomplish the harmonisation of existing legislation concerning cultural heritage and ensure that all relevant aspects (intangible, tangible and natural heritage) are adequately considered; strengthen relevant law enforcement measures, fulfil international obligations and develop various tools (e.g. define the status of the monument guard, etc.);
- Implement necessary action in order to re-integrate the endangered Georgian monuments into the general UNESCO World Heritage List; prepare new candidates from the intangible, tangible and natural heritage for submission to the UNESCO World Heritage List and to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity;
- Further develop the system which serves to classify and categorise cultural heritage and take into view internationally recognised terms (e.g. cultural landscape, cultural space, natural heritage, urban space, urban heritage, historic heritage, industrial heritage, film heritage, literature heritage, agricultural heritage, digital heritage, etc.);
- Elaborate and reinforce different measures for safeguarding and monitoring cultural heritage in occupied territories (e.g. enhance international cooperation, conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements, provide necessary training and awareness-raising programmes for residents of occupied territories, etc.);
- Designate responsibilities and coordinate efforts of involved institutions and stakeholders aimed at the protection of cultural heritage (eg: the state, private proprietors, Georgia's Orthodox Church, other religious confessions, etc.);
- In accordance with the international criteria, conduct the identification, inventory, categorisation, classification, create relevant documentations and specific register systems and map tangible, intangible cultural and natural heritage (including Georgian heritage abroad and the heritage associated with minorities, etc.);
- Contribute to the development of the clusters and networks between the organisations of cultural and natural heritage sector and support national and international events;
- Digitalise and develop cataloguing of intangible and tangible cultural heritage for protection purposes and in order to increase public accessibility;
- Facilitate and promote scientific and research activities regarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Georgia and beyond its borders; support international scientific collaboration (e.g.: exchange programmes, residencies, research laboratories, etc.);
- Support archaeological fieldwork linked to cultural heritage and encourage the application of new technologies of research;
- Establish expertise, restoration and conservation laboratory equipped with the latest instruments of modern technology;
- Develop specific tools, such as small and medium-sized museums, relevant projects, exhibitions, etc. for the thorough representation of different areas of cultural and natural heritage, of specific knowledge and traditions, unique landscapes, flora and fauna and other related phenomena;
- Promote the Georgian cultural heritage as the heritage of all mankind through different mechanisms (international periodicals, webpages, UNESCO nominations, etc.);
- Ensure physical protection (conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation) of the tangible cultural heritage in compliance with the relevant international standards and research;
- Ensure that the conservation of cultural heritage follows an integrated conservation approach and that urban, spatial and regional development plans take into consideration the protection of buildings, architectural ensembles, cultural heritage protection zones and landscapes of cultural value;
- Protect and preserve traditional architecture - facilitate the transfer of relevant knowledge and skills (e.g. identification and processing of traditional materials, traditional greening, landscapes and citybuilding, traditional

rules of hydro-isolation, etc.) to future generations and encourage their application and integration in urban development, restoration and urban landscaping projects;

- In order to preserve, develop and promote historically developed entrepreneurial clusters and business activities associated with specific urban spaces (e.g. trade of products of traditional craftsmanship, second-hand books, antiquities, numismatic valuables, etc.), introduce various tools (e.g. elaborate business-development programmes, organise thematic festivals, etc.);
- Develop effective collecting and monitoring mechanisms (e.g. a specific register, auctions, etc.) for the market, export and import of cultural properties; combat the illicit traffic of cultural property; plan a national system for the restitution of lost or illegally exported cultural properties to Georgia, enhance international cooperation (with Interpol and other international organisations and states) with the purpose of protecting and returning cultural heritage to its owners;
- Retrieve, identify, digitise and expiate cultural heritage (artefacts, audio and visual materials, manuscripts, etc.) representing private collection and expiate exceptionally important objects of cultural heritage by the State;
- Develop risk-management plans and conduct preventive measures for the protection of cultural heritage from the effects of natural disasters and human activity (e.g. emergency evacuation plans during military conflicts and natural disasters, etc.);
- Develop and distribute integrated instructions, road-maps and programmes for the purpose of raising public awareness about the ways cultural heritage is managed and safeguarded;
- Protect intangible cultural heritage, facilitate revitalisation and practising of endangered forms of intangible cultural (oral traditions and expressions, traditional craftsmanship, performing arts, social practices, knowledge, etc.) heritage and raise public's awareness about it;
- Support research in order to ensure the protection, preservation, development and promotion of national folklore – traditional music, choreography and oral traditions, traditional plays, medicine and etc;
- Ensure the protection of relevant facilities and spaces (instruments, artefacts, household objects, etc.) associated with traditional Georgian performing arts, social practices and craftsmanship;
- Support the transfer onto the next generation of relevant knowledge and skills and diverse forms of expression connected to the traditional craftsmanship and facilitate ways of their practising; Support research and safeguard the Kartvelian languages (Georgian, Mingrelian, Laz, Svan) and tones, the Georgian scripts and alphabet (designing the fonts for three types of Georgian alphabet, encouraging the use of the Georgian languages and scripts on the internet, etc.);
- Protect and develop endangered languages, especially the Abkhazian language, as a part of Georgian identity and intangible cultural heritage.

Libraries and Archives

- Improve the legal and administrative regulation of libraries, design standards and certification guidelines of the post of librarian, enforce coordination between stakeholders and designate involved responsibilities;
- Facilitate the growth of library collections and service improvements, support the introduction and application of innovative approaches and new technologies (e.g. mobile libraries);
- Support libraries in the digitisation of their collections and archive materials, in the development of e-libraries, which shall allow the increase of public access to more literature and shall facilitate the transformation of libraries into on-line learning centres;
- Develop libraries into multifunctional institutions in collaboration with different stakeholders (e.g., the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia, the Service Development Agency, the Administration of the President of Georgia, municipalities, the Association of Libraries, etc.), in order to ensure that libraries, along with traditional functions, respond to current challenges by providing opportunities for learning, education, socialising and improve accessibility to public services;
- Support libraries in designing programmes for the development of reading habits and promotion of literacy, in order to build a more educated public;
- Establish an integrated reserve of various types of national literature and intellectual material (manuscripts, music records and music scores, etc.) and ensure public access to these materials;
- Support archives in digitising their collections and materials, and in developing other measures in order to safeguard, protect cultural property and to increase public access to them;

- Encourage growing collaboration between archives, public, educational, research and other organisations, implement joint projects and events for raising awareness about cultural property and materials reserved in archives and for encouraging their application in practice.

Museums

- Support local and international collaboration in order to share professional knowledge and museum practice and develop training programmes for museum workers (audience building, foreign language, fundraising and building networks, communicating with people with disabilities, strategic design, marketing, etc.);
- Support new initiatives (e.g. museum nights, open door days, museum in school, etc.) in order to promote museums;
- Support the protection and enrichment of Georgian museums' collections in order to safeguard cultural heritage and to prevent the outflow of cultural heritage from the State; Encourage museums to apply new technologies, innovative approaches, interactive e-services, to develop and use diverse software applications, in collaboration with other museums, cultural institutions, universities and the business sector;
- Establish and develop virtual museums by means of digitising museum collections and use of appropriate internet platforms, in order to encourage research, improve public accessibility, attract visitors and raise international awareness; Support the development of museums into public spaces, into institutions of educational and research purpose by implementing different programmes, including children and youth programmes; Support the establishment and development of thematic museums;
- Support efforts by the museums to set up and develop restoration centres of higher standard that comply with international criteria.``

Preservation of monuments on the occupied territories

One of the most difficult problems is the preservation of monuments on the occupied territories. Within the last 25 years, cultural heritage in Georgia has suffered greatly as a result of the local conflicts in Abkhazia and in the Tskhinvali Region, where monuments were destroyed and plundered. During that period there were natural disasters such as powerful earthquakes, landslides and floods which had radical affects on cultural monuments (e.g. Old Tbilisi). There was extensive damage to monuments in so-called South Ossetia, historical Shida (Internal) Kartli, region Samachablo and in Kodori (a mountain part of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic) caused as a result of the Russian-Georgian conflict of August 2008.

Nikozi monastery complex located in the Laikhvi River gorge, 1.2 miles (2 km) from Tskhinvali, suffered badly from this conflict. In particular, the Episcopal Palace, which is included in the Nikozi monastery complex, one of the most important Historical Monuments and Episcopal Chair, was directly bombed in August 2008. The resulting fire destroyed the roof, which was newly restored by the Georgian Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection and the interior of the palace. Moreover, the direct bombing completely destroyed the living part of the monastery on the south of the palace: the monk cells, refectory, archive, library and other secondary structures belonging to the monastery were burnt down.

The house - museum of the writer and translator Shakespeare Ivan Machabeli, in the village of Tamarasheni was completely burnt out.

In April 2009, a GACC project for Emergency Stabilisation of the Episcopal Palace (9th-10th c) of the Nikozi Monastery Complex (5th-18th c) was approved by the Committee of the "Cultural Emergency Response" programme of the Prince Claus Fund. The project is aiming to conduct emergency works to prevent further damage and to ensure the stability of the structure for further conservation activities.

Another thorny issue is the protection of the Georgian cultural heritage outside Georgia, namely, on the territory of Turkey, in the historical province of Tao-Klarjeti where old Georgian cathedrals are located and require restoration. The negotiations held since 2005 with the Turkish government based on the reciprocity principle can gain a new format in the conditions of a new governing political power.

A major threat to Georgian cultural heritage was the grave economic situation and the inadequacy of the law which operated until 2007. This vacuum created uncertainty in the roles and responsibilities between state authorities and scientific institutions, which meant that they both created different systems to register cultural heritage. Procedures to grant monument status were very complicated and long and, hence, many objects remained unprotected. The inadequacy of legislation prevented the system and institutional reform from happening and created problems for the exhibition of the museum collections abroad. A new *Law on Cultural Heritage* (see below) was finally introduced in 2007 to address all of the problems in this field.

International agreements and commitments of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia

A trilateral Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 1 February 2012 between the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia, the Wall Painting Department of the London Courtauld Institute and the Faculty of Restoration and Arts History of LEPL Ap. Kutateladze Tbilisi State Academy of Arts, on the study, research and protection of cultural heritage, in particular, for cooperation in research and conservation of wall paintings. One of the main objectives of the Memorandum is cooperation of the parties in the research and conservation of paintings in the Virgin Church within the Vardzia Cave Monastery Complex. These activities include:

- sharing experience of monument wall painting research methodology;
- sharing methodology of monument conservation works;
- sharing monument research and conservation documentation;
- providing research and conservation methodology in the education programmes; and
- execution of research and conservation operations on the monument agreed by the parties.

The memorandum is valid for 10 years and in 2012 the first phase of the research was carried out.

Since 2006, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and since 2009, the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia has carried out archaeological research and conservation work at the Gialia Georgian monastery complex in the Republic of Cyprus. The following work was implemented within the framework of the programme: the comprehensive archaeological research of the Virgin and St. Nicholas, conservation of the wall painting of and the Cathedral of the Virgin and partial restoration and complete conservation of the cathedral. The National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia planned to implement protective roofing for the monument in the framework of the national programme (2013). In 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Cooperation between the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia and the Department of Antiquities of the Ministry of Communications and Works of the Republic of Cyprus.

A number of projects were successfully implemented in the framework of the grant agreement executed between the **Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage** – Riksantikvaren and the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia signed in 2010. In 2010-2012, the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage expressed willingness and readiness to continue cooperation with the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia from 2013-2015. This initiative provides for joint projects in the cultural heritage management and conservation sphere, improvement of management instruments, perfection of the research and documentation methodology, based on shared knowledge and experience. The active involvement of Norway's leading institutions and experts in each component of the project will determine the high quality of project implementation.

The strategic directions of cooperation in the field of cultural heritage in 2013-2015 are:

- to develop information systems in the cultural heritage sphere using GIS technology;
- to continue digitisation of the cultural heritage archives to make them available to the public;
- to improve the management of the archaeological-architectural complex Nokalakevi (site administration, conservation and interpretation); and
- to advance the skills of maintenance of the heritage of small towns and townships.

The total amount of funds allocated by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the framework of this Grant Agreement is 353 964 USD.

Twinning

From the aspect of the institutional development support the European Commission's project for cooperation between public administrations of twin cities and towns (TWINNING) is the most important as it allows the "Improvement of the Regulatory Legislative Framework for Implementation of Institutional Activities and the Introduction of a Flexible System of Cultural Heritage Managers in Georgia." The EU funded Twinning Project "Support to the Institutional Development of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia" was launched at the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia (NACHPG) in June 2013. The eighteen month project is realised by the Italian- Danish consortium led by the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism together with Danish Agency for Culture, Formez PA – Centre for Services, Assistance, Studies and Training for the Modernisation of the PA, and Italian National Agency for New Technology, Energy and the Environment (ENEA). The key purpose of the Project is to improve the governance and the efficiency of the agencies performance and to enhance the legislative framework regulating the sector by transferring EU best practice (for more information see: <http://heritagesites.ge/?lang=geo&page=210>).

Some projects that could not be implemented for years have been driven with the support of international partners. One such project is the Twinning Project spearheaded by the EU public services which has been implemented at the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia since 11 June 2013. On 17 July 2014 the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Georgian Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the protection and maintenance of cultural heritage owned by the Church. It is for the first time since the signing of the Concordat (a constitutional agreement between the state and the Georgian Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church) on 14 October 2002 that the State and the Church has signed the regulatory document in the field of cultural heritage. The main partners in the project chosen by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage are the Cultural Activities and Tourism of Italy and the Agency of Culture of Denmark.

Cooperation with UNESCO and ICCROM

In 2013, Georgia became a member of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Event of Armed Conflict. This membership (which will last for four years) and active participation in the work of the committee are proof of the country's interest in implementing the UNESCO Hague Convention (1954) and its second protocol (http://www.euroeastculture.eu/struct_file.php?id_a=879).

In this context, in late 2012, the **Georgian National Committee of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS)** was established (see also: <http://www.ancbs.org/cms/index.php/en/about-us/hague-convention>). The objectives of the Georgian National Committee are to protect cultural heritage against damages incurred by natural or manmade disasters, to elaborate risk preparedness and risk response plans for cultural institutions, to raise awareness and to facilitate the implementation of both protocols of the 1954 Hague Convention in Georgia and to prepare the population of Georgia to respond to the threats to cultural heritage during natural or man-made disasters.

On 24-26 September 2014 the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia initiated and organised the international conference "World Heritage and Sustainable Development" in Mestia (Svaneti, Georgia). Its aim was to facilitate the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Georgia and to harmonise the country's natural and cultural heritage protection and development strategies, as well as to highlight the role of heritage in the country's social and economic development process. The main guest of the Conference was the Director General of the Restoration and Conservation Centre ICCROM, Stefano De Caro. The conference participants were the senior officials and regional representatives of the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO, the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural property - ICCROM, the International Council on Monuments and Sites - ICOMOS and the International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN-, as well as members of state agencies and non-governmental organisations. The meeting discussed the UNESCO World Heritage List, the challenges it faces and the role, experiences and examples of international organisations in cultural and natural heritage management and development. One of the

main issues was the national programme of the world heritage sites and the draft law on world heritage, which will become the solid foundation of departmental cooperation in natural and cultural heritage in the frames of the World Heritage Convention.

In November 2014, ICOMOS and ICCROM experts visited Georgia with the aim of monitoring the historical monuments of Mtskheta. Based on the monitoring, the World Heritage Centre prepared a report which was presented at the World Heritage Committee's 39th Session in June 2015, in Bonn (Germany) and related to discussions on the endangered monument status of the historical town of Mtskheta made by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2009.

In **2014 ICOMOS Georgia** completed the national policy of cultural heritage document. The document was developed in the frames of the project "Regional Cooperation for Development of Cultural Heritage" funded by the EU Eastern Partnership Culture Programme (the project was implemented by ICOMOS Georgia since May 2012, with the active cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia). The document represents the analysis and recommendations of the objectives of the national heritage policy, as well as reviews the challenges and opportunities facing the public, government, public services and interest groups in the field of heritage protection. A review of the document and presentations were organised by ICOMOS Georgia in the different institutions and interest groups. The document was handed over to the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia to be included in the ongoing process of drafting the cultural policy document.

In 2006, protection zones of the Georgian sites on the World Heritage List were identified under the projects on cultural heritage protection zones for the historic cities of Mtskheta and Kutaisi (historic monuments of Mtskheta, Bagrat's Cathedral and Gelati Monastery). The determination of the boundaries will facilitate the further preservation of these sites. A full inventory of monuments in Mtskheta was conducted. For the first time in recent years, Georgia prepared a report on the state of conservation of monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The preliminary national list of monuments proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List was updated which resulted in the number of monuments being increased from six to twelve. In 2006, work was continued for the preparation of phase 2 of the international project for stone conservation for Mtskheta Jvari (Holy Cross) Church. The project is implemented in cooperation with ICCROM, the advisory body of the International Centre of Restoration and Conservation.

The collections of Georgian written monuments were included in the UNESCO project titled "Memory of the World" in 2011. The Minister of Education and Science of Georgia and the Secretary General of the National Committee of UNESCO and the Director of the National Centre of Manuscripts held a joint briefing on this issue.

The "Memory of the World" project, developed by the National Centre of Manuscripts, was submitted to UNESCO with the support of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the Secretary General of the National Committee.

The aforementioned collection reflects Georgian-Byzantine relations in the VIII- X centuries and is of huge importance for the world history of culture; the collection includes 500 manuscripts and it includes a number of unique translations of Byzantine written monuments, some of which are the only source left for history within these centuries.

Along with Georgian historical written sources, documentary monuments from Armenia, France, Kazakhstan, Portugal, The USA and Angola are on the new world manuscript list of UNESCO. The Georgian collection is the largest (see also <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=2993&lang=eng>).

A burning issue is the reconstruction of Bagrath's Cathedral which may be excluded from the list of monuments protected by UNESCO (see: *WHC-10/34.COM/7B.Add* – pages 149-154, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/34COM/documents>).

Georgia has continually been working on new nominations for the UNESCO World Heritage List.

- In 2016, three varieties of the Georgian alphabet were entered in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List. The nomination was submitted to UNESCO for consideration in 2015 and its main purpose is to emphasize the

harmonious coexistence of the three varieties of the alphabet (Mrglovani, Nuskhuri, Mkhedruli) created as a result of the systemic evolution of the Georgian script, in modern reality.

- The Enguri HPP arch dam is being prepared for nomination for the UNESCO World Industrial Cultural Heritage List.

In 2017, according to the "Increasing Awareness and Internationalization" priority of the 2017-2018 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Culture Strategy:

- Gelati Monastery has returned to the UNESCO World Heritage Basic List
- An update of the national preliminary list of the UNESCO World Heritage was initiated
- "Georgian Wrestling" has been nominated for the UNESCO World Intangible Heritage List

Within and after the period of the parliamentary elections of October 2012 acute discussions were held on the issues of protection of cultural heritage.

Such competent and experienced organisations such as ICOMOS Georgia, Association "Society and Cultural Heritage", GACC "Georgian Heritage" have expressed their anxiety about the ongoing or completed large-scale monument protection projects. The object of particular criticism is the process of restoration and rehabilitation of the old districts of the capital city Tbilisi as well as the rehabilitation operations executed within the Pilot Project on the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in Historic Towns on the territory of Rabat Fortress in Akhaltsikhe, Batonistsikhe of Telavi and other projects as well as the metamorphosis of the city of Batumi.

In 2009 the National Agency for Protection of Cultural Heritage of Georgia began and in September 2012 completed the restoration and reconstruction of Bagrath's Cathedral. Unfortunately, being one of three monuments of Georgia in the UNESCO world heritage list, the Bagrath's Cathedral was put in the list of endangered monuments in 2010. Under the preliminary UNESCO report the Bagrath's Cathedral meets no longer the criteria of a world heritage. UNESCO considers that the restoration process has endangered the cathedral authenticity. In 2012 at the 36th session held in St. Petersburg UNESCO again left the Bagrath's Cathedral in the list of endangered monuments and will decide on its future status at the session to be held in 2013.

Noteworthy is that in the disregard of the opinion of the UNESCO and a big group of the Georgian experts was the result of the will and interests of some powerful players and actors, because the Assumption Cathedral built during the reign of Bagrath III (975-1014) in Kutaisi which was ruined by the Ottomans in 1692 is the symbol of the united Georgia. By the initiative of the President of Georgia in 2009 the reconstruction of this cathedral began in accelerated pace. The political decision of the government and the patriarchy's request on restoration of the divine services at the Bagrath's Cathedral has led to the ambiguous decision to dome the cathedral.

The official visit of UNESCO, ICROM and ICOMOS Joint Mission to Georgia

On the 14-15th November 2012 the UNESCO regional working sessions were successfully held in Tbilisi. The Mission's purpose was to assess the state of conservation of historical monuments located in Mtskheta and to define urgent measures and recommendations regarding the world heritage monuments of Georgia. The Mission has visited the developing areas of the historical part of Mtskheta, got familiar with the rehabilitation activities at Samtavro Burial Ground and of newly commissioned information-education centre at Mtskheta State Museum. Several meetings were held between the Mission and Local Authorities, as well as with abbots of Svetitskhoveli, Jvari and Samtavro Monasteries. The visiting programme envisaged field trips to Bagrati cathedral and Gelati Monastery. Together with activities that had already been implemented the designers of Bagrati Rehabilitation Project presented in details their views concerning planned future activities. In 2013, the experts will check the respective activities and submit a report about the visit findings both to the World Heritage Committee and the Georgian representatives. During the five-day-long visit, the Mission held business meetings with the Georgian UNESCO National Committee, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Patriarchate of Georgia. Several meetings were organised at the National Agency for Preservation of Cultural Heritage of Georgia, the Art and Architecture Board and at the Patriarchate of Georgia.

Intangible Cultural Heritage <http://heritagesites.ge/?lang=eng&page=220&news=984>

Georgia joined the 2003 UNESCO Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2007. Meanwhile, an example of Georgian intangible heritage, namely the Georgian polyphony, was regarded as a masterpiece of world heritage before the Convention. In 2011, on the initiative of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Georgian National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation initiative, the Georgian "quevri" winemaking method of 8 000-year history was awarded the highest national monument status. On 30 March 2012 under the *Presidential Decree N 257*, "quevri", wide-spread all over the country from ancient times to the present, was assigned the category of intangible cultural heritage of national significance. On 4 December 2013, during the 8th session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage, "quevri" was assigned cultural heritage status. In 2013 a *Law on Intangible Cultural Heritage* was drafted, which will be submitted to the Parliament for consideration.

Protection of Georgian cultural heritage existing in the territory of historical Tao-Klarjeti in Turkey is one of the strategic objectives of the new government

Throughout the year 2013, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Georgian National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation conducted lengthy and difficult negotiations with the Turkish party on execution of rehabilitation operations in the historic Tao-Klarjeti, at the most important Georgian monuments – Ishkhani and Oshki.

On 17-18 April 2013, for the first time in history, the Ishkhani monastery complex hosted the joint meeting of Georgian and Turkish experts. The Turkish party expressed its readiness to accept and consider the notes and recommendations developed by the Georgian experts. The first steps of cooperation have been taken and professional groups of Georgian and Turkish experts in the interests of antiquity will jointly develop the plan of work to be carried out in Ishkhani and Oshki. The cooperation of two countries in the field of antiquity preservation is backed up by international agreement. The parties agree that in accordance with international norms, protection of the monument and restoration of its original form should be based on accurate scientific research so as to maintain all the features of the antiquity which determine the uniqueness and historical value of the monument. As a result of the joint work of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and Georgian National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation, the restoration works on Ishkhani are being carried out in compliance with the standards adopted in the restoration practice. The working group has already prepared its recommendations, which will be sent to Turkey.

Mission of the Council of Europe in Georgia

In cooperation with the Council of Europe, the National Agency for Protection of Cultural Heritage of Georgia is implementing the (pilot) Project in the conflict region (Shida Kartli) – "Post-Conflict Immediate Actions for the Social and Economic Revitalisation of the Communities and the Cultural Environment in the Municipality of Gori - Georgia" PIAG.

The Project comprises three sub-components as follows:

- Guidelines for the repair and reconstruction process of the villages in the Conflict Zone Adjacent Area;
- A feasibility study for the rehabilitation of Nikozi Monastery and *The Reference Development Plan for the Revitalisation of Nikozi Village*; and
- The Local and Regional Sustained Development Programme for Gori Municipality.

Provided that the Project is successfully implemented, the respective document prepared by the Council of Europe (and as part of the project by Georgian experts) will be submitted to potential partners and possible donors for further international funding.

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/cooperation/Kyiv/PP2/georgia_en.asp

Since 2010, under the initiative of the Council of Europe, the pilot project for rehabilitation of cultural heritage in historical cities (PP2) is being implemented. The project partners are the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Protection of Georgia.

The goal of the project is to improve the legitimate framework and management in the sphere of urban heritage, to expose the rich and diversified resources of Georgian urban heritage on the regional and international levels and to assist small and medium towns to use heritage as a factor promoting socio-economic development.

The project is of particular significance for Georgia against the background of the intensive process of rehabilitation of historical towns in the country. The leading experts of the Council of Europe have been mobilised for supporting these endeavours in the framework of the project in order to share best practices and harmonisation with European standards.

In 2010, a heritage evaluation project was prepared and the following towns selected to participate: Abastumani, Akhaltsikhe, Borjomi, Dusheti, Gori, Mestia, Telavi, Poti, Tskaltubo, and Chiatura. In 2011-2013 the next stage of the project will be implemented in those towns: detailed evaluation of the towns and identification of possible activities for rehabilitation of cultural heritage. Assessment of their anticipated effect on the local socio-economic development and elaboration of strategic intervention plans to promote the mobilisation of national and international funds and attraction of private investment will be implemented.

Traditional Georgia: Projects include an inventory of Immoveable Monuments and Sites with Monument Features in the Village of Atskuri in Akhaltsikhe District and the creation of a database. The project involved the village of Atskuri, in the Akhaltsikhe district, including students of the Georgian University of Social Sciences during their summer internship. An icon was discovered with the Crucifixion scene carved on a jasper stone set in a cloisonné enamel frame, presumably dating from the 10th-11th century. The icon was found in the grave of the Bishop of Matskveri, in the interior of the Church of the Virgin at Atskuri. This is an open search system which can be updated with information on the moveable and immoveable monuments in Georgia and abroad.

Museums

The museum system of Georgia consists of 255 museums of various profiles, which are subordinated to and financed from different levels of authority. Following the adoption of the *Law on Legal Persons under the Public Law of 1999* (see also ➡ [chapter 3.2](#)) museums should obtain a new legal status. However, this process has been delayed for a number of reasons including: testing for discrepancies in the legislation, bureaucratic slowness, a lack of political will (in some cases it was disowned by local authorities / municipalities) and uncertainty regarding the ownership after adoption of the Concordat.

Some progress has been made. In 2005, three museums were registered: the National Museum of Georgia, Niko Pirosmiani Museum in Mirzaani and the Historical and Architectural Museum at Dadianis' Palace in Zugdidi. In 2006, the number of registered museums increased to 15, in 2007 to 17. According to the Sakstat's 2017 data, 241 museums are registered in Georgia, some of which are legal entities of public law, while others are nongovernmental nonprofit legal entities.

Since the Rose Revolution, museum reform has been a priority; in particular, improvements in museum administration have been stipulated. A first step was the creation of the National Museum of Georgia (30.12.2004) which includes 11 public museums and branches.

Training and involvement of young people, as well as the introduction of new technologies to improve the protection of cultural heritage, are major issues faced by the state requiring serious investments.

Museums of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia:

2015 (fact)	10,216,072 GEL
2016 (plan)	8,994,000 GEL
Average salary	485 GEL
Number of employees (staff)	1206 persons

Libraries and Archives

Against the comparatively favorable background of development in the sphere of cultural heritage, the situation for libraries and archives is completely inadequate. The existing system has 2 089 libraries and their number is decreasing day by day (in comparison, in the Soviet period, the number of operating libraries was about 8 000). Currently libraries, with their obsolete material and technical base and methodology, do not meet the requirements of contemporary readers, whose numbers have been also decreasing. (In 2004, the number of readers decreased by 100 000, as compared with 2003, and made up 971 422).

Table 1: Public and universal libraries in Georgia, 2001-2008

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*	2007	2008
Public and universal libraries (in units)	2 170	2 160	2 123	2 090	2 056	1726	672	824
Quantity of readers (in thousands)	2 311.3	1 625.9	1 421.3	1 528.9	1 556.1	732.1	---	778.3
Average quantity of readers (per library)	1 065.1	752.7	669.5	731.5	761.7	424.2	---	945
Quantity of copies (in million)	30.8	30.6	29.6	28.5	28.3	20.7	---	17.3
Quantity of workers (persons)	4 278	4 044	3 819	3 730	3 727	3 408	N/A	N/A

Source: Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection, State Department for Statistics of Georgia

Note: Not including the data on Ajara Autonomous Republic.

Most of the libraries in Georgia are responsible to the local authorities, but their supervision, especially the central libraries, falls within the competence of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. School libraries (2 100 units) are responsible to the Ministry of Education and Science. The financing of the library sphere is the weakest and the librarian's salary is one of the lowest nationwide. This has resulted in the outflow of personnel and complicates the inflow of new high-skilled workers.

Library Activities (2016-2017)

The National Library conducted librarian, bibliographic and scientific-research activities; centralized the collection and analysed statistical data; aids state protection in the field of libraries; identified policy for training-retraining appropriate human resources; extended the electronic library and diversified the proposed services.

The preservation of archival cultural heritage is vested in the National Book Chamber, which holds more than 1 600 000 titles. The Chamber's role is to prepare the national bibliography and to store, in the archives, all editions dedicated to the culture, history and achievements of Georgia.

The National Archive Fund, which was established for the extended use and improvement of the centralised register of documents created by the state authorities, is also engaged in the protection of the cultural heritage.

The non-governmental sector implements projects aimed at preservation and popularisation of the multinational cultural heritage. Among these are: the Project Arts Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory "Tbilisi Modernist Artistic Cafes and Their Murals - the Space of International Communication". It involves the research and conservation planning

(research, analysis, documentation) of the murals of unique artistic cafes - "Argonaut's Boat" (1918) and "Khimerioni" (1919), which were the meeting places of modern artists, poets and writers. These cafes significantly expose the multinational character of Georgian Modernism. Along with the high artistic / aesthetic quality of the paintings, the conservation of these cafes is also important, as they are the only painted artistic spaces / cafes surviving from early period of modernism. The project is supported by the "Open Society Georgia" Foundation.

There are funds and non-governmental organisations in Georgia which are engaged in, and make a significant contribution to, the development of cultural heritage; these include: the Fund for the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage of Georgia, ICOM, ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Georgia, Museum Association of Georgia, Heritage & Modernity Association, E. Privalova Painting Technical Studies Centre "Betania", Georgian Cultural Heritage Information Centre (GCHIC), and the Fund for Science "Udabno".

Private funding and sponsors: The fact that there is no special legislation for charities in the field of culture frequently hampers private charity initiatives. In spite of this, some Georgian companies periodically provide subsidies, in the form of charity, for conservation-restoration works to be conducted on an individual monument. For instance, the "Cartu Group" provided 6 million USD for the rehabilitation of the important architectural monument – the Rustaveli State Academic Theatre building.

In recent years, the private sector has allocated approximately 28 million GEL, for the restoration and rehabilitation of the buildings of public theatres: Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi State Academic Drama Theatre, Kote Marjanishvili Tbilisi State Academic Theatre, Nodar Dumbadze Theatre for Young Spectators, Michael Tumanishvili Theatre of Film Actors, Vaso Godziashvili Theatre of Musical Comedy and Drama, and the Jansug Kakhidze Musical Centre.

In Georgia, there is only one network in the field of cultural heritage – "European Heritage Days National Office", which unites the competent institutions of this field, non-governmental organisations, diplomatic missions and cultural institutions of several countries.

The activities implemented in the Georgian cultural heritage sphere.

2016

Cultural Heritage Protection National Agency:

2015 State Budget (fact)	11,361,377 GEL
2016 State Budget (plan)	6,531,000 GEL

- Monuments registered on the territory of Georgia - 11,200
- Immovable monuments - 7,051
- Movable monuments - 4,112
- Intangible monuments - 31
- National category monuments - 483
- Enlisted in the UNESCO World Heritage - 5
- Monuments located on the occupied territory - 285
- More than 100 monuments abroad as known by today

Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage of Georgia

In 2015-2016 the charity fund "Cartu" spent 12,132,000 GEL on rehabilitation of cultural heritage (in 2015 - 7,262,700 GEL; in 2016 - 3,450,000 GEL).

Cartu's beneficiary projects 2015-2016	Amount
Vardzia	2,775,000 GEL
Mutso	1,700,000 GEL
Chazhashi	1,127,700 GEL
Nokalakevi	5,350,000 GEL

11,892,000 GEL were spent on other projects.

Rehabilitation of cultural heritage by the state budget in the total amount of 3,732,000 GEL.

N	Project name	Sum spent, GEL
1	Grakliani Gori archeology and site arrangement	400,000
2	Second stage of restoration and rehabilitation works of the Niko Dadiani palace in the Dadianis' Palace Complex in Zugdidi	700,000
3	Second stage of rehabilitation of Shoreti monastery complex of XIV-XV cc.	130,000
4	Rehabilitation of Atskuri Our Lady's Temple	500,000
5	Rehabilitation of Atskuri fortress	132,000
6	Second stage of rehabilitation of the building of Senaki Akaki Khorava's Drama Theater	400,000
7	Second stage of rehabilitation works of Niko Nikoladze's House-Museum in the village Didi Jikhaishi	400,000
8	First stage of rehabilitation of Niko Nikoladze's tower in Poti	250,000
9	Rehabilitation of Kalauri Church	90,000
10	Preparation of the project documentation of the ``Vani Kvabebi`` drainage system	100,000
11	Rehabilitation of Kumurdo Church	500,000
12	Renovation of Niko Pirozmanashvili's State Museum (in Mirzaani and in Tbilisi)	

The following was implemented in the context of the museum reform in 2015-2016:

- Rehabilitation of 17 museums
- Bolnisi – the modern museum-educational space
- 17 research expeditions
- Over 200 activities (3 international conferences, workshops, 30 public lectures, educational programs, 5 trainings, parties, meetings, publications, presentations)
- Information system of museums collections (eGMCIS)
- 70 Exhibitions (4 International Exhibitions of the Georgian National Museum in Florence, Los Angeles, Washington, Darmstadt and Upper Galilee)
- Svaneti History and Ethnography Museum is a candidate for the contest of the European Museums Forum "European Museum of the Year 2016"

Important archeological discoveries of 2016

- The fifth skull found in Dmanisi was named among the 10 most important discoveries of the world.
- The signs similar to ancient inscriptions were found on the altar of the Grakliani Temple

In accordance with the priority "Development of Cultural Infrastructure and Facilitating Public Access to Culture" of the 2017-2018 Action Plan for Implementation of ``Culture Strategy 2025``, the following was implemented in 2017:

- Rehabilitation/restoration, conservation and archaeological study of 46 monuments of cultural heritage (budget – 3,562,000 GEL)
- Preparation of project and preliminary documentation on 30 monuments, budget – 200,000 GEL
- Charity Fund "Cartu" implemented 15 projects, budget – 7,593,324.71 GEL

Also in accordance with the plan in 2017:

- The 4th phase of Vardzia survival plan was completed
- Rehabilitation of the village of Chazhashi and Gelati monastery and improvement of infrastructure
- Rehabilitation of Mutso complex and Nokalakevi architectural-archaeological complex is underway
- The 1st large-scale project of industrial heritage, Enguri HPP, tourism infrastructure development
- Rehabilitation of Mtskheta archaeological museum begins
- Maintenance of Georgian cultural heritage outside of Georgia in Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Portugal, India continues

In accordance with the priority "Raising Awareness and Internationalization" of the 2017-2018 Action Plan for Implementation of ``Culture Strategy 2025``, the following was implemented in 2017:

- Project "Befriend the Heritage" - 100 members

- "European Heritage Days" - 17 municipalities, up to 2000 participants
- Project "Night at Museum" – participating 74 museums, 53,883 visitors

In accordance with the priority "Improvement of Cultural Governance" the following was implemented in 2017:

- Georgian Cultural Heritage Data Management, Geoinformation System and GIS Portal <http://memkvidreoba.gov.ge/>
- Information system of Georgian museums collections <https://www.egmc.gov.ge>

Examples of good practice in the field of cultural heritage protection

Minority Cultural Heritage Protection

The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia and the Bolnisi municipality intend to work closely with a newly founded German Cultural Heritage Preservation Association in the South Caucasus. This organisation will have its head office in Tbilisi and will promote the Georgian side as much as possible to protect the German cultural heritage existing in the country in line with the scientific activities and research projects, restoration of historic structures, old objects and manuscripts, as well as promotion of German media and publications related to this region in the South Caucasus.

Bethlehem District Festival

On May 17, 2013, as a result of the Bethlehem Revitalisation Project jointly implemented by ICOMOS-Georgia and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage Georgia, in the restored and renovated old street in Tbilisi, the fourth traditional festival of the Bethlehem District was held. The Bethlehem Festival was founded by ICOMOS GEO on 17 May 2010, Norway's Independence Day, to express gratitude to this country for the close cooperation. The Bethlehem District has been restored and rehabilitated based on the comprehensive research and in compliance with all criteria set in accordance with the International Convention for the Protection of Monuments.

Rehabilitation of Norasheni

In October 2014, reconstruction started on the Norasheni Cathedral, dated XVIII century, which had been in poor condition for many years. The Norasheni rehabilitation project documents were prepared in 2012 with funding from the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia. So far, reinforcement of the foundations has been carried out along the total perimeter of the cathedral and in the interior, which will guarantee the survival of the monument. In 2015 the constructive pre-tensioning of Norasheni facades and full conservation of the monument are being carried out. The Norasheni rehabilitation is funded by the Cartu Foundation for Protection and Survival of Historical Monuments.

Restitution of Georgian cinema heritage

On 30 September 2014 a memorandum between the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Russian Federation State Film Fund "Gosfilmofond" was signed, under which the "Gosfilmofund" agreed to hand over to Georgia the Georgian films produced during the period from 1916 to 1990 that are stored in the Fund archives. "Gosfilmofond" is the world's largest archive, which houses film masterpieces produced by all of the countries united in the former USSR, including Georgian films. The initiative in connection with the transfer of the films to the Georgian party originated before the disintegration of the Soviet Union, in the 1990's, however, despite many efforts over the years by the Georgian filmmakers, the initiative has not been implemented until now. The full list of the items of interest to Georgia has been already been transferred. The restitution of the Georgian film archives stored in Gosfilmofond will take 5 years. The transfer will start from 2015 step-by-step. Georgia will receive the films in a positive format, which will enable their transfer into any digital format, and in this way, to create film archives of international modern standards in Georgia.

Diagnosis of the ancient Georgian manuscripts

In 2014, the research project "The Diagnosis of Ancient Georgian Plated Monuments (XI-XIII centuries' Georgian manuscripts)" was initiated, which provides for the detailed examination, diagnosis and determination of conservation methods of the manuscripts stored in the National Centre of Manuscripts for their further conservation, protection and promotion. The project will last for 6 months and will be conducted with the participation of an Italian art conservator and a Georgian gemmologist. As a result, the damages will be assessed professionally and the methodology of conservation will be determined. A bilingual report will be prepared on the project. The project is being implemented with financing from the US Embassy in Georgia.

New large-scale projects of rehabilitation of cultural heritage (Mutso / Dartlo / Chazhashi / Vardzia) are in progress

On 31 July 2015, a presentation of new projects in the field of cultural heritage was held in the Radisson Hotel. The importance of these projects is manifested in the unity and interest revealed by the Government of Georgia under the leadership of the Prime Minister. The event was attended by the Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Garibashvili, the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, the head of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia, as well as the Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, the Minister of Agriculture and other officials and experts in the field. The Head of the Georgian Government reported the launching of a monument survival programme in the frames of which the rehabilitation of unique architectural complexes will be implemented. Large-scale projects were presented – the rehabilitation of Mutso, Dartlo and Chazhashi and the emergency programme of Vardzia's survival. The projects are implemented by the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia. All professional standards of compliance, methodology, project documentation and monitoring will be applied.

Problems in the field of cultural heritage

Serious gaps still remain in the field of cultural heritage, the majority of which are the result of an absence of governmental vision and underestimation of the heritage objects. As with previous governments, there is a serious contradiction between economic interest and cultural heritage protection.

In 2013 the Ministry of the Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia initiated the amendments to the ***Law on Cultural Heritage***, the sole aim of which is to ease the removal of the status of monument so as to attract investment for concrete construction projects. To solve the problem the Parliament was approached by the ICOMOS Georgian representation. ICOMOS Georgia's Comments on the New Governmental Initiative on the ***Amendment to the Law of Georgia on Cultural Heritage*** are: "The proposed amendment, which states that "in particular cases when the need of national importance exists, the monument status may be removed from a monument (except for the monuments put in the list of national category and / or in the World Heritage List), with the consent of the Ministry under the presentation of an agency entitled to initiate a draft legal act, to the government of Georgia, under the resolution of the Georgian government", contradicts the essence of the ***Law on Cultural Heritage*** - the protection of heritage". "...This means that the cultural heritage of the country will no longer be considered a significant potential for social and economic development of the country and its citizens, which in turn is essentially inconsistent with the obligations undertaken by signing the international conventions of the UN and the Council of Europe." For more information see: <http://rcchd.icomos.org.ge/?l=E&m=3&id=102>.

Despite many protests by professional societies, the bill has not been revoked by the Parliament. The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection plays the role of a passive observer and does not address any effective measures to implement its mission.

The obvious example of sacrificing the environment and cultural heritage for economic interest is the removal of the status of movable monument of cultural heritage from Sakdrisi-Kachagiani, the oldest goldmine (dating back to the end of the

4th millennia – beginning of 3rd millennia BC; it is 5400 years old and is considered to be the oldest in the world) and is owned by the gold mining company RMG Gold.

For more information, see European Heritage Network: [Country profile Georgia](#)

Examples of good practice of Cultural Heritage

Projects by GACC- Georgian Arts and Culture Center

2016-2017 – Stone conservation of the chapels of the Church of the Virgin (12th-18th century) in Gelati Monastery. It aims to finalise the stone conservation of the Church of the Virgin, in particular of the Chapels and narthex of the church, and thus to eliminate the problems of the church's masonry and its undesirable affect on the church's interior: <http://gaccgeorgia.org/CultHeritage/Gelati.htm>. The project is funded by the US Ambassador's fund for Cultural Preservation.

2013-2016 - Architectural Rehabilitation of the Church of the Virgin (12th-18th century) in Gelati Monastery. Funded by the US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation Large Grants Programme and the National Agency for Cultural heritage Preservation of Georgia. <http://gaccgeorgia.org/CultHeritage/Gelati.htm>

2015-2017 – Stone Conservation of the Church of the Virgin (12th-18th century) in Gelati Monastery aiming at the elimination of the masonry problems and their undesirable affect on the church's interior, its dome and the arms of the structure, as well as at the reinforcement of the dome and the installation of a monitoring system. Funded by the WB/MDF. <http://gaccgeorgia.org/CultHeritage/Gelati.htm>

2015-2016 - "Rehabilitation of the drainage system of Tbilisi State Silk Museum" funded by the Prince Claus Emergency Response Programme. Aiming at the elimination of the damages caused by the Tbilisi floods of 2015.

4.2.3 Cultural/creative industries: policies and programmes

In Georgia, the culture industries are in the process of development and have not yet been formally established, nor properly defined and analysed. Private companies offering cultural items and services (publishing houses, periodicals, providers of audio cassettes and CDs etc.), as a rule, are independent from state cultural policy and operate without any government support. Nevertheless, there are some partnerships between the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and some companies engaged in the publishing business, concert activity etc. but, in general, the relations of central and local authorities with public agencies may be described as sporadic. The contacts between them are limited to non-permanent cultural events and projects.

The development of the creative industries is one of the priorities of the declared entrepreneurial cultural policy (2010). In summer 2010, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia initiated an innovative project aimed at the promotion and development of the gaming industry in Georgia. Within this ministry, a special studio has been created to work on 3D games technology.

The development of creative industries was significantly promoted by the Culture Strategy 2025 (approved in 2016), which is based on intensive use of expert methods.

The 6th of 8 strategic areas of the ``Culture Strategy 2025`` is "Creative Industries":

``Chapter II: Strategic Goals

Goal 6. Creative Industries

Goal: Creative industries represent an important source for job creation, economic growth and innovation, it is a competitive sphere of activity.

6.1. Objective: Creative industries in Georgia have a favourable environment for development, the output of higher quality and competitive products and services is increased.

Tasks:

- Perform mapping of the current state of the creative industries, evaluate their economic importance and potential (e.g. analysis of companies' operations, turnover, employment, exports, etc.), in order to design an effective system for the attraction of investments;
- Establish a supplementary public programme – "Creative Georgia" in order to develop creative industries with different mechanisms (e.g. implementation of awareness raising campaigns, creation of specific training opportunities, development of creative incubators, stimulation of exports, etc.);
- Create and strengthen organisations (e.g. Crafts Council) concerned with the business-oriented development of different sub-sectors of culture in order to support professional development, intersectoral dialogue and internationalisation of the cultural sector in question;
- Raise financial power of creative industries on the one hand by creating sector-specific funding programmes, initiatives and system of incentives and, on the other hand, by raising awareness about relevant national and international funds and programmes;
- Modernise/create appropriate spaces for creative industries; offer outdated, dysfunctional and unused buildings (factories, warehouses, etc.) to creative industries in order to stimulate the materialisation of their creative and innovative ideas, revitalise cultural activities and facilitate clustering within the cultural sector and their cooperation with the private sector;
- Execute special programmes to help creative industries develop their business-related skills (e.g. management, marketing, innovation, new technologies, protection of copyright and related rights, tax regulations, etc.) and vice versa, help the business expand its creative skills;
- Help the establishment of creative incubators where creative businesses, among them start-ups, are offered appropriate space and services (e.g. training programmes, consulting, sharing of new technologies, clustering etc.);
- Support the development of creative industries' webpages and commercial platforms (auctions, art fairs, online shops, etc.);
- Encourage the establishment of clusters and networks of creative industries in Georgia and beyond its borders.

6.2. Objective: The protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) and related rights contributes to the development of creative industries in a competitive and fair environment.

Tasks:

- In the framework of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, improve legislative tools for the protection of copyrights and related rights, strengthen law enforcement mechanisms in collaboration with relevant agencies and ensure that the owners of the IPR's and related rights receive deserved royalty payments;
- For encouraging greater awareness regarding the IPR's and related rights, carry out various activities and information campaigns (e.g. strengthening of communication between the representatives of the cultural sector, IPR owners, collective management organisations, representatives of the judicial sector and policy makers, ensure that the media highlights cases of how the violation of the IPRs and related rights is prevented and that the public is fully informed in this regard);
- Ensure legal protection of toponyms, brand names, names of the places of origin, names of traditional cultural products, both at national and international levels;
- Taking into consideration the challenges derived from the development of technological and electronic information systems, help establish specialised organisations, which will monitor the protection of the rights of the authors, performers, publishers, producers, etc.
- Strengthen preventive measures against online piracy, elaborate and approve Internet protocol, combat the illegal market of pirated goods by promoting legal products;

- Create successful precedents of the application of legal instruments (criminal and administrative law) with regard to copyrights' protection.'

According to the Strategy, in 2017 a new state organization "Creative Georgia" was created <http://creativegeorgia.ge/>

Creative Georgia is a LEPL (Legal Entity of Public Law) created under the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, the fields of work of which are commercialisation of creative industries sector and supporting its sustainable development. (**See Chapter 3.2** Overall description of the system)

CREATIVE GEORGIA: Roadmap for Developing - Cultural and Creative Industries in Georgia

The Creative Georgia Roadmap was elaborated based on the recommendations received in the framework of the series of sub-sectorial round table meetings with representatives of the CCI sector, held on September 7-9, 2016, and under the guidance of the leading EU experts from the EU-EaP Culture and creativity programme. The aim of the Document is to set the vision, objectives and corresponding timeframe indicating specific activities to be implemented.

<http://www.culture.gov.ge/getattachment/News/shemoqmedebiti-industriebis-ganvitarebis-gzamkvlev/creative-georgia-ENG-F.pdf.aspx>

The specific tasks in the Culture Strategy 2025 exhaustively define the aims and objectives of all Creative Industries, highlighting the priority of the development of this sphere by the state (SEE Chapter 4.2.1.)

Publishing

Georgia is one of the leading countries in the world to produce the most books per capita, claims the International Publishers Association. Georgia made it into the top 5 book producing countries with 1 547 titles per million people, while big countries such as the United States and China ranked only 12th and 25th respectively.

The establishment of the LEPL National Centre for Georgian Books (<http://www.book.gov.ge>) in 2014 is important for the promotion of the publishing sector in Georgia.

In 2014 the National Centre for Georgian Books, supported by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, announced three translation programmes that are intended for foreign and Georgian publishing houses. They are aimed at promotion of the translation of both Georgian literature into foreign languages and foreign literature into Georgian and publishing of translated books.

- The programme "Georgian Literature in Translation" is intended for foreign publishers that wish to translate and publish Georgian literature into foreign languages.
- The programme "Foreign Literature in Georgian Translation" is intended for publishers that wish to translate and publish foreign literature into the Georgian language.
- The "Trial Translation Programme" is intended for translators, publishers and literary agents that wish to translate Georgian literature into German and English languages. These translations will then be offered to foreign publishers for publishing abroad.

Professional seminars in international rights and publishing management for Georgian publishers were held in September 2014, under the initiative and support of the National Centre for Georgian Books, as well as the Goethe Institute, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Some state programmes are open to the private sector on a competition basis, for example with regard to the publication of books, where competition is open to all publishing houses regardless of their ownership. However, the selection of a winner is not effective in all cases as the criteria for selection is not adequately specified and this affects the decision-making process. Often selection in these competitions is not transparent.

The *Tax Code* of Georgia specifies some preferences for the importation of scientific, creative editions and fiction, books and periodicals where the authors are citizens of Georgia as well as for the importation of Georgian classics published

abroad. Guidelines are also set for the distribution, import, sale and printing of periodicals and fiction. The state supports publishing activities through governmental programmes. The publishing sector is developed more effectively than the cinema and showbiz sector which require a more powerful and stable economy and larger market than is available in Georgia. Until now the attempts to introduce an industrial model of development for the folk art and handicrafts sector in the context of the development of cultural tourism have not been successful.

Events implemented in the Literature and Publishing area:

The budgetary funds on literature amounted to:

2015 (fact)	2,328,036 GEL
2016 (plan)	1,757,000 GEL

The staff of two legal entities of public law (The Writers' House, the National Center for Georgian Books) comprised 30 persons; the average salary was 1,341 GEL. The activities of these organizations covered 447 events and 178,450 visitors.

In 2016 the following was implemented:

- 5 literary contests
- Tbilisi International Book Festival
- Tbilisi Literature Festival
- Publishing 43 books, albums, catalogs
- The Literary Prize of the Ministry and LEPL "The Writers' House" was founded
- Promotion of the publishing of 6 periodic magazines

Translations of literature works:

- 44 international projects
- More than 100 works of Georgian writers translated into 15 languages
- 14 books translated into Georgian
- Participation in 4 international markets - Leipzig, Bologna, London, Frankfurt
- Participation of Georgian writers in 40 international cultural events
- 7 professional workshops for publishers and translators
- Literary forum-dialogue for up to 60 Georgian and foreign publishers
- Preparation of the country's honorable guest program of Georgia at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2018
- Contest on the creation of a film script based on the modern Georgian literature works
- Support for Georgian Illustrators
- Promoting the Tbilisi Book Festival

The Writers' House implemented the following in the area of popularization of literature:

- Children in the Writers' House - 34 events
- Conversations on literature - 15 events
- Presentations of new editions - 54 events
- Exhibitions - 11 events
- Conversations on art - 30 events
- Project "City Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" - 10 events
- Vakhushti Kotetishvili's anniversary events - 3 events
- David Sarajishvili's anniversary events - 3 events
- Creative performances - 53 events

The project "Live Books" has been recognized as the best literary event of the year in all regions of Georgia, covering 61 municipalities; within the frames of it 100 meetings were held and 75 writers participated in it.

The memorandum was signed by and between the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection. A new cultural program "Live Books" provides for the active cooperation and meetings of military men and writers. It is a unique event in the Georgian culture policy practice.

<https://mod.gov.ge/en/news/read/4316/cocxali%20wignebi%20jarSi>

Also, the cooperation with the civil sector is underway, in particular within the framework of the NNLE |Book Art Center”:

- Employment of 25 students
- 10 exhibitions
- 5 workshops
- Event “Tbilisi Book Days”

In 2017, the preparatory activities of Georgia’s guest status at the Frankfurt International Book Fair were the most important:

Literature program:

- Literature marathon - with the participation of 5 Georgian authors
- Presentations of translations of Georgian classics (N. Baratashvili and Gr. Robakidze)
- Reading of books of 3 Georgian modern authors, in 2 cities
- Discussion dedicated to the German-Georgia year

Cultural Program:

- Katie Melua and Gori Women’s Chamber Choir performance
- Documentary: “Georgia as a Guest Country - Part 1”

Film Production

There is a significant need to develop Georgian film production and distribution. The leading force in Georgian cinema is the film studio "Gruzia-Film", where 90% of the production capacities and cinematography staff are concentrated, and where most national films are produced. Some years ago the film studio was privatised and today it holds a special status in that two-thirds of the shares are held by the state. Today it is recognised by those working in the film industry that the privatisation process was managed incorrectly, as it has brought no investment and the studio is in a more difficult situation than previously.

In 2001, in order to rescue the cinema industry, the Ministry of Culture established the National Film Centre (<http://www.filmcenter.ge/>) which, to some extent, drove the reforms in the film sphere. The Fund for the Development of Georgian Cinema was also established with the aim of joining together cinematography forces in the country. However, the state still fails to meet the needs of film production.

The situation in the film distribution network is poor as well. Only 4-5 cinema theatres in Georgia meet modern standards. One of the main problems in the operation of cinemas is the piracy operating in private TV companies (which show dozens of unauthorised films each day), despite the active work of the Georgian National Communications Committee. Another issue of concern is the dominance of American films which must be addressed by developing and propagating Georgian national and European cinema with the help of public television companies.

However, in recent years there have been a few positive moves in the film industry, including 6 international film festivals. Currently there are about 60 film and television, video and audio studios and about 20 NGOs operating in the field of cinematography. The portals <http://www.geocinema.ge> and <http://www.geoscript> have been created.

Cross-Border Cinema Culture (CBCC) is a new pilot project within the Kyiv Initiative carried out in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The project aim: support and development film production.

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/Regional/Kyiv/CBCC/Default_en.asp

Under commission by the Georgian National Film Centre, the "GeoGraphic" Company produced an electronic guide-book for film producers, which presents Georgia as a film friendly country. Information placed on the compact disc is in English and broken down in three sections such as: "Locations", "Film Making" and "About Georgia". The "Film Making" section contains information on film organisations, funds, educational institutions, film festivals, TV companies, movie theatres and film studios of Georgia, as well as brief review of Georgian film history. The "About Georgia" section presents general

information about the country, its maps and regions, transport routes and tourism, as well as other useful information for foreign guests. Two laws, *Law on State Support for Georgian Cinema* and *Law on Copyright and Allied Rights* can be found in the same section.

To promote the film industry, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia initiated an amendment to the *Tax Code of Georgia* which will mean that producers that obtain funding from the National Film Centre will be charged income tax only after the release of a film. Under the previous regulation, the funds allocated from the state budget were charged tax before the release of a film, which hindered film producers in their use of the funds. Film producers have been also authorised to charge the 100% depreciation on the released film as an intangible asset. *Amendments to the Tax Code* came into effect on 1 January 2015 in the form of additions to paragraphs 65, 66, 67 of Article 309 (see [chapter 5](#)). 20% of qualified expenses from the film production costs are returned to the production company; additionally, 2-5% of qualified expenses are reimbursed for the promotion component,

The activities implemented in the area of cinema

Budgetary sums on cinema were:

2015 (fact)	8,077,672 GEL
2016 (plan)	5,797,000 GEL

The staff of one legal entity of public law - the National Center for Cinematography comprises 23 persons; the average salary was 1,486 GEL.

The following was implemented under the auspices of this organization:

- Over 100 film screenings at film festivals
- Up to 30 prizes
- Days of Georgian cinema in 5 countries
- 2 film productions became the winners of the Eurimages Foundation
- 10 local international film festivals were held
- For the protection of the cinema heritage, the return of Georgian films by "Gosfilmofond" was important - more than 705 films produced in 1921-1991 were returned.
- A new direction "Film in Georgia" appeared in the governmental program "Produce in Georgia" .

3,090,000 GEL was spent on film production in 2015 as well as in 2016.

In 2015-2016 the following took place:

- 13 contests
- 22 films in the production process
- 35 productions in development process

The National Center for Cinematography announced new competition areas:

- A full-length feature film dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Georgia
- A comedy and full-length feature film for kids
- A screen adaptation of the 21st century literature work
 - An animation film based on a book for kids
 - A creative documentary

The number of Georgian films has increased significantly in international forums and festivals:

- Nomination for an Oscar and Golden Globe
- Nomination for the Best European Film at The European Film Awards <http://www.gnfc.ge/geo/news/1484>

- 8 international film festival awards
- Awards in the Asian World Film Festival Los Angeles, San Sebastian, and Warsaw international film festivals

In 2017 the following was implemented for promotion of the Georgian cinema:

- "Film in Georgia" - filming of 9 movies with the 15 million GEL budget, 1,800 persons employed
- 11 more full-length films of Georgian cinema heritage were returned from "Gosfilmofond"
- A digital catalog of documentary cinema heritage was created
- Restoration of 3 Georgian films, including their digitisation and transfer to the Cinema Center (the German Cinema Institute "Arsenal")
- "Georgian Chronicles" - up to 5000 cleared and identified boxes of Georgian documentaries, scientific and historical films
- Recommendations were developed for the establishment of a cinemas network and distribution system in Georgia (by TAIEX)

In the strategic area "Awareness raising" the following was implemented:

- The Film Forum "See for the First Time in Bakuriani", for film experts, journalists and students
- "25 Years of Independence – Georgian Cinematography" – study of 25 years of history of this film industry

International recognition of Georgian cinema in 2017

- Georgian films were presented at over 300 international film festivals (Berlin, Cannes, Sarajevo, Locarno, Sundance and others) - more than 75 awards
- Georgian pavilion at the international film festivals (Berlin, Cannes, AFCI Location Show, AFM, "Focus London")
- Animation "Pocket Man" – screening in 185 cinemas in France
- Georgian film distribution - in 4 European countries
- Distribution of the film "My Happy Family" via Netflix (110 million subscribers); screening in 60 cinemas in France, over 60.000 viewers
- The Eurimages Foundation funded 3 Georgian film productions (700.000 euros).

Development and Training

Until now, attempts to introduce an industrial sector development model into the folklore and crafts sector (in order to further develop cultural tourism) were in vain.

However, there are single cases of positive practice:

- in terms of the cultural industries, Georgian educational institutions and programmes offer training in the telecommunications and advertising business e.g. the Georgian Telecommunication and Management Institute LAMPARI and the Institute of Media, Advertising and Arts; and
- the Shota Rustaveli State University of Theatre and Film and the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts provide various courses which aim to train workers for the cultural industries (e.g. leather and fabric designers, clip makers etc.).

However, the lack of appropriate integration into the industrial process (due to the current crisis in the Georgian economy and inadequate development of the cultural industries) and inadequate practical studies in these sectors minimise the chances for postgraduate employment. The situation is aggravated with the total disintegration of the vocational training system the new *Law on Vocational Education* (2007) has not been put fully into effect yet (see ➡ [chapter 5](#) and ➡ [chapter 8.3](#)).

In 2017, in the strategic area "Awareness raising" of Culture Strategy 2025 the following was implemented:

- Regional information tours and workshops in 3 regions of Georgia - 16 towns, up to 600 participants
- Reconception of the Tbilisi Central Library and Batumi Adjara Pupils and Youth Palace

Crafts

Budgetary funds allocated for the crafts amounted to: 2015-2016 - 770,000 GEL

The following is identified in the traditional Georgian craft sector:

- 600 craftsmen throughout the country
- 55 studio's
- 1500 persons employed

Traditional Georgian crafts:

- Textile
- Ceramics
- Metalsmithing
- Jewelry
- Woodcarving
- Enamel

Activities implemented in the area of craft

- 10 exhibitions throughout the country
- 10 exhibitions abroad
- The catalog "Souvenirs from Georgia" was published in 2018, which covered 100 authors, 18 studios, 1000 craft pieces
- In 2016 an interactive version of "Souvenirs from Georgia" was created
- Exhibitions of Georgian arts and crafts were organized in 2016 – in Tbilisi, Frankfurt, Milan
- In 2016 a database structure was created for the whole country
- In 2016 the Georgian Souvenir brand was created – for which a design competition was held

Promotion of cultural and creative incubators was planned in 2016

The great potential of cultural and creative incubators has been identified in the following fields: knitting, ceramics, woodcarving, jewelry, gaming, design and more

- 40 small enterprises and 1,500 people employed in the field, including 960 individual craftsmen are identified in Georgia

The nongovernmental sector contributes much to the development of creative industries, namely, the development of craft.

Recently, the list of the Creative Industry events taking place in Georgia has increased. The Creative Industries and Crafts Development Programme is one of the Georgian Art and Culture Centre's (GACC) main activities.

The GACC helps to facilitate international exhibitions of Georgian cultural goods, as well as developing the local market within Georgia. The GACC provides local marketing, competitions and sales through the Christmas Gift Fairs and the GACC Gift Shop, <https://www.gaccgeorgia.org/gift%20Shop/About.html>

The new project "Development of Cultural Industries in the South Caucasus Countries through the introduction of the UK experience" is being organised within the framework of the British Council's "Creative Collaboration" programme which was launched in April 2009. The project will focus on cooperation between museums and producers in the partner countries - Armenia, Turkey, Georgia and the UK in the field of cultural industries, namely museum reproductions and traditional crafts that serve as a source for creative exchanges and economic benefits - not only for cultural institutions, but also for individual producers, artists and artisans. The long term goal of the project is to turn these craft traditions into creative and business joint ventures, using the extensive expertise and experience of the UK and other western countries.

Examples of good practice

Georgian Arts and Culture Center

2016 - GACC founded Tbilisi 1st International Summit of Crafts and Design "Ethno Fest 2016"

GACC actively cooperated with the Ministry of Culture during the elaboration of Culture Strategy document, as an expert-consultant, as well as the facilitator of the cultural industries section meetings in different municipalities of Georgia. The GACC in particular lobbied for the introduction of the notion of cultural economy and for the recognition of the role that culture and cultural industries play in the economic development of the country.

2014-2016 - Crafts Platform in Action. Enhancing Sector's Economic Capacity for Georgia, funded by the European Union (Investing in People Programme). Project Partners: Economic Affairs Office of Tbilisi City Hall, Center for Strategic Development of Georgia, Associate Partners: Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia, British Council Georgia. <http://gaccgeorgia.org/Crafts/Crafts%20Platform%20in%20Action.html>

The project was a follow-up of the project implemented in 2012-2013 "Strengthening Creative Industries in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia: Heritage Crafts - Common Platform for Development" and urges for the actual implementation of Crafts Development Policy and recommendations, drawn directly from the needs of crafts actors. Overall objective: To Contribute to the transformation of the craft sector into a source for job creation and economic growth in Georgia. Specific objectives:

1. To Strengthen the Structural Capacity and Professional Network of the Crafts Sector through the establishment of a Georgian Crafts Association and provision of a First International Summit of South Caucasus Craftsmen for the enhancement of cooperation on regional levels.
2. To develop a Local Crafts Market, Enhance Working Conditions and the Business Capacity of Crafts Actors' through the expansion of distribution channels, provision of series of workshops and small grants to craft actors to arrange workshops, studio's & shops across the country linked with tourism infrastructure and through the development of a new line of crafts products to align with contemporary market requirements.
3. To Advocate for a Crafts Development Policy to Integration into Governmental Policies through campaigns and meetings with related governmental bodies and local authorities and to introduce international experience in raising the status and recognition of people and organizations in the crafts sector. In 2016 the Georgian Souvenir brand was created – for which a design competition was held.
4. To Facilitate Crafts Education and the Transmission of Knowledge by creating informal training opportunities for the young generation across the country and to develop crafts training modules and publish guidelines for craftsmen.

4.2.4 Cultural diversity and inclusion policies

In the context of promotion of cultural diversity, the programmes and events involving minorities have been expanded with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. One example is the Multi-ethnic Arts Festival "Under One Sky", founded in 2008, which includes a series of regional concerts. The main goal of the festival is to identify and encourage talented young people from the ethnic minorities living in Georgia. The events involve the students of Georgian, Armenian, Azeri, Kurdish, Kist, Ukrainian, Russian, Ossetian and Greek nationalities from the regions of Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti. Together with the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, the project is supported by the Office of the State Minister of Reconciliation and Civil Equality and donor organisations: the UN Association in Georgia and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

Georgia is a multinational country. On 1 January 2002, the total population was 4 371 535, of which 16.2% were minorities.

Table 2: Distribution of national and ethnic minorities, 2002

Nationalities	Number	% to total population
Total population	4 371 535	100.0
Total national and ethnic minorities	710 362	16.2
Abkhazians	3 527	0.1
Ossetians	38 028	0.9
Armenians	248 929	5.7
Russians	67 671	1.5
Azerbaijanis	284 761	6.5
Greeks	15 166	0.3
Jews	3 772	0.1
Ukrainians	7 039	0.2
Kurds	2 514	0.1
Others	38 955	

Source: State Department for Statistics

The 2014 census covered 82 percent of the whole territory of the country (57 thousand sq. m). The census was not conducted on the occupied territories, namely: the Abkhazian AR and the Tskhinvali region (total area - 13 thousand sq. m).

As of November 5, 2014, the Georgian population was 3,713,804 persons, or less by 15 percent (657,731 persons) compared to the previous 2002 census (4,371,535 persons).

Table 3: Ethnic composition according to the population census 2014

Nationalities	Number	% to total population
Total population	3 713 800	100.0
Georgians	3 224 600	86,8
Total national and ethnic minorities	489 200	13.2
Azerbaijanis	233 000	6.3
Armenians	168 100	4,5
Russians	26 500	0,7
Ossetians	14 400	0.4
Yazidi (Kurds)	12 200	0.3
Abkhazians	N/A	N/A
Ukrainians	6 000	0.2
Kistinets (Georgian Chechens)	5 700	0.2

Greeks	5 500	0,1
Assyrians	2 400	0,1
Others	14 300	0,4
Refusal on the answer	600	0.0
The nationality isn't specified	500	0.0

Source: State Department for Statistics

As of November 5, 2014, 83.4 percent of the population of Georgia are Orthodox Christians, 10.7 percent of the population are Muslims, and 2.9 percent are the followers of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Table 4: Distribution of the Georgian population by religion according to the 2014 census data

Religion	Number	% of total population
Total population	3,713,800	100
Orthodox Christians	3,097,600	83.4
Muslims	398,700	10.7
Armenian Apostolic	109,000	2.9
Catholic	19,200	0.5
Witnesses of Jehovah	12,400	0.3
Yezidis	8,600	0.2
Protestants	2,500	0.1
Judaists	1,400	0.0
Other	1,400	0,0
No one	19,100	0.5
Refusal	9,600	0.3
Not sure	34,300	0.9

Source: State Department for Statistics

Many groups of ethnic minorities have been formed historically - Abkhazians, Ossetians, Greeks, Jews, Armenians, Azeri, Kurds, Russians, and Ukrainians. One of the oldest Diasporas – the Jewish Diaspora - has had 26 centuries of peaceful existence, whereas the comparatively young Diasporas – Russians and Ukrainians - have no less than 200 years of peaceful co-existence.

During the past 15 years, as a result of conflicts with the separatist authorities of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic and former South-Ossetian Autonomous District (the Inner Kartli), a new group has been formed in the population - IDP (internally displaced persons). Currently, there are 286 643 IDPs officially registered, of which 275 096 (95.97%) are from Abkhazia and 11 546 (4.0%) from the former South Ossetian Autonomous District (the Inner Kartli). Following the Russian - Georgian conflict in August, 2008, a new stream of IDP has emerged from so-called South Ossetia, the historical Shida (Internal) Kartli, the region Samachablo and from Kodori (a mountain part of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic) and from other Georgian cities and the villages. This raised the number of IDP's by an additional 192 000 persons. The total number of IDP's is now estimated at almost 500 000. Against this background, the focus of government and public attention is directed to the territorial integrity of the country, the protection of constitutional laws and of minorities.

Information about the newly formed groups of immigrants is not available, as the country still faces major emigration waves of its population.

Out of the above listed groups, the indigenous groups are Georgians and Abkhazians. Others moved to Georgia in later periods.

Various ethnic groups are geographically concentrated throughout Georgia. There are also specific settlements of Azeri, Armenians, Ossetians, Assyrians, Greeks and Russians. The Dukhobors live in Samtskhe-Javakheti, the Old Believers live on the Black Sea coast.

The Constitution of Georgia provides for the equality of all citizens regardless of their national, ethnic, religious or language background. Freedom for citizens to use their native language and to practice their culture is safeguarded. In addition to the Constitution, the rights of minorities are specified in the **Laws on General Education, on Culture, and on Broadcasting**. However, no special law on minorities exists. To assist minorities to exercise their constitutional rights the state supports:

- languages of minorities in the educational system;
- maintenance of minority cultures and development of their creative activities; and
- cultural cooperation with countries which have Diasporas residing in Georgia.

Georgia acceded to the Vienna Convention on the Protection of Ethnic Minorities and signed the European Framework Convention on National Minorities.

Some state authorities such as: the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection, the Ministry of Education and Science, the public TV and radio-broadcasting companies, the municipal culture services - have responsibilities related to minorities, though none of them have a special structure for minorities in particular.

The Minister of Education and Science of Georgia and the Public Defender signed a collaboration memorandum between the Ministry, Public Defender and the National Minority Council. The memorandum will facilitate civil integration of national minorities and protection of their rights. The aforementioned document will serve as a warrant for systematic collaboration between the Ministry, the Public Defender and the National Minority Council. The MES has been implementing important projects in respect of the integration of national minorities. One of the projects is "Georgian language for future success", which was presented in the framework of the event. The project implies enhanced teaching of the official language. According to the memorandum, the projects developed by the ministry in respect of civil integration of national minorities will be implemented in close collaboration between the Public Defender and the co-located National Minority Council (see also <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=2995&lang=geo>).

In Georgia, there are public primary and secondary schools for minorities (Azeri, Armenian, Russian), where the Georgian language is taught as the official language (see ➡ [chapter 4.2.5](#)). The publication of textbooks for minorities is provided by state procurement.

Under the **Law on Broadcasting (Article 16, paragraph 1)**, public broadcasting shall "place programmes in the languages of minorities, about minorities and prepared by minorities in accordance with their share in the total population". Accordingly, Georgian radio and TV have special news programmes in some languages (Abkhaz, Azeri, Armenian, Russian and Ossetian). These programmes occupy 4% of air time on public television and 2% of air time on public radio. In addition, there is special public broadcasting in Abkhaz and Ossetian languages, which covers a part of Abkhazia and the total region of "South Ossetia". Local community broadcasting companies also provide coverage of various spheres within their broadcasting, including the cultural life of minorities.

In 2008, **Order No.282 of the President** created a Strategic Vision Project – the National Vision and Action Plan on Civil Integration and Tolerance. The document identified the main objectives of the Concept of Culture and Education.

The purposes of the Concept in the Culture Sphere are:

- support for preservation of the cultural identity of minorities;
- support for intercultural dialogue, improvement of knowledge about minority Georgian culture and national values;
- participation of minorities in the cultural life of Georgia; and
- presentation of culture and history of minorities as cultural values of the country (Georgia).

The purposes of the Concept in the Education Sphere are:

- improving the educational opportunities of minorities in the Georgian language;
- implementation of government programmes in primary and secondary education, especially in schools of ethnic minorities;
- implementation of professional training programmes;
- promotion and support for private training programmes in the state language;
- support for training of the Georgian population in minority languages;
- promotion of minority languages as part of Georgian cultural values;
- education of ethnic minorities and preparing for national exams; and
- provision of private education for minorities.

Cultural traditions of national minorities

Traditional popular festivals of national minorities have been held in the framework of the presidential National Programme of Folklore Support in the regions populated by ethnic minorities (Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti). Folklore ensembles participate in the annual folklore festival "Art-Gen" representing Pankisi Gorge, Akhalkalaki, Bolnisi, Marneuli and Ninotsminda; The days of the Azeri, Armenian and Ukrainian cultures involve the folklore collectives of the national minorities.

In the context of recent conflicts in Abkhazia and Samachablo (South Ossetia) the problem of territorial integrity is very acute, though the constitutional rights of minorities in the territory under the control of Georgian authorities are fully protected.

Besides Abkhazia and Samachablo, the areas with a high density of ethnic minorities are Samthkhe-Javakheti and Lower Kartli. One of the main concerns for minorities is their lack of knowledge of the Georgian language, which hinders their integration into the common national processes. Within the reform of teaching the official language, intensively implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection developed and realised a special programme for the cultural development of ethnic minorities. This programme was allocated 190 000 GEL by the state budget in 2005.

The budget of the State Programme for Cultural Development of Ethnical Minorities increases year by year, e.g. 271 500 GEL in 2006, 281 000 GEL in 2007.

In accordance with **Strategy 4 - Development of Culture of National Minorities** (see ➡ [chapter 4.1](#)) - the purposes of this programme are:

- the protection, development, promotion and integration of cultures of national minorities of Georgia within a common cultural space.

Main programmes / activities under the strategy are:

- the co-financing cultural organisations and projects of national minorities; and
- the enhancing cooperation with the diasporas active in Georgia.

One example of under this programme is the identification and protection of samples of Polish cultural heritage kept in Georgia (see ➡ [chapter 3.4.2](#)).

The majority of issues related to minorities are dealt with on the municipal level. Tbilisi is historically a multiethnic city which is remarkable in the Caucasus for its ethnic, religious and cultural tolerance. The Tbilisi Municipality supports cultural centres (Russian, Azeri and the Caucasus House), sponsors and finances the Petros Adamyan Tbilisi State Armenian

Theatre, Tbilisi State Azeri Drama Theatre and A. S. Griboedov Academic Russian Drama Theatre, which is the oldest Georgian theatre (opened in 1845) and which has promoted Georgian and Russian stage classics.

Together with the local authorities, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection carries out different cultural events, festivals, conferences and days of culture (Armenian, Azeri, Lithuanian, Israel etc.). One important cultural event in Georgia was the exhibition dedicated to the 26 centuries old history of the establishment of Jewry in Georgia (held in 1998), which covered the history of the peaceful coexistence of Georgians and Jews. (For more information on languages in Georgia see ➡ [chapter 4.2.5](#)).

The following NGOs representing cultural minorities are registered in Georgia: the Latvians Association in Georgia "Ave Sol"; "Public Movement Multinational Georgia"; Union of the Russian Women "Yaroslavna"; "Armenians Union in Georgia"; "Ossetins Association in Georgia"; "Kurds Union in Georgia"; "Armenian Youth Union in Georgia"; "Yezid Youth Association in Georgia"; "The Independent League of the Kurd-yezid Women in Georgia"; "The National Congress of the Kurd-yezids in Georgia"; "Einung" – German Association in Georgia; "Union of the Azerbaijani Women in Georgia"; "Hilel-Tbilisi" – Jewish Youth Foundation; "The National Congress of Assyrians in Georgia"; "The Ukrainians Association in Georgia"; "The Georgian Federation of the Greek Associations"; and the Polish Community.

Activities implemented in the area of maintenance of the cultural identity of ethnic minorities of Georgia:

The budget expenditures allocated for the maintenance the cultural identity of ethnic minorities, amounted to:

2015 (fact)	2,427,066 GEL
2016 (plan)	2,300,000 GEL

The total staff of 6 legal entities of public law was 326 persons, with the average salary of 527 GEL. The activity of these organizations comprised 28 events and attracted more than 3,000 visitors.

Implemented in 2015-2016:

- The event of the Ossetian classical music
- The album "German Artists in Georgia" was published
- The bilingual collection of poems by Kosta Khetagurov was published
- Azerbaijan hand woven carpets - preservation of tradition
- "Sergo Parajanov - the Dream of the 21st Century" - exhibition
- "Diverse Georgia" - meetings with writers, concerts, screenings (Ninotsminda, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Akhalkalaki)
- Promotion of exhibitions, concerts and anniversary parties in in the center of Georgia and regions of Georgia
- May 21 - the event dedicated to cultural diversity

In the line of the 2015-2016 maintenance of cultural identity of ethnic minorities of Georgia, three museums - David Baazov museum of Georgian Jews and Georgian Jewish Relations History Museum, Mirza Fatali Akhundov Azerbaijani Culture Museum, the Smirnovs' Museum implemented 52 activities and attracted 14,000 viewers

The museums conducted:

- 33 events (meetings, creative and anniversary parties, seminars, conferences)
- 2 book presentations
- 1 film screening
- 5 editions
- 7 exhibitions
- 4 concerts

In the line of the 2015-2016 maintenance of cultural identity of ethnic minorities of Georgia, three theaters - Tbilisi Petros Adamian Armenian Theater, Tbilisi Heydar Aliyev Azeri Theater, Alexander Griboyedov Russian Drama Theater - implemented 157 activities and attracted 51,000 viewers.

The theaters conducted:

- 137 performances
- 8 openings
- 15 tours
- 5 charity events

In 2017, for promotion of ethnic minorities according to the strategic area "Development of Cultural Infrastructure and Facilitating Public Access to Culture" the following was implemented:

- Rehabilitation of 3 LEPL theaters
- Rehabilitation of 3 LEPL museums
- 13 other projects
- 15 activities within the framework of the program "Diverse Georgia"

Example good practice collaboration NGO, Governance and international organization

"Diverse Georgia – Civil Society Platform for Cultural Diversity. Elaboration of a Package of the Non-Governmental Sector Recommendations Concerning the Implementation of the Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions"
Project by YTAUniona. (This project is realized in the frames of the PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME, UNESCO)

Project Goal:

Promotion of creative work and diversity of cultural expressions through raising awareness of the civil society and institutional development in the cultural sphere (in line with the Major Programme IV, Strategic Objective 8; Main Line of Action 2).

Project Objectives:

Conducting preparatory work for the implementation of the 2005 Paris Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions:

- Creation of a database of institutional and human resources;
 - Creation of a platform of non-governmental organisations which will participate in the implementation of the Convention;
 - Elaboration of a package of recommendations on the Convention implementation based on the results of round table and focus group discussions;
 - Promotion of the Convention and UNESCO.
- <http://www.culturaldiversitygeorgia.com/ge/>

4.2.5 Language issues and policies

The official language of Georgia is Georgian. In the territory of Abkhazia there are two official languages – Georgian and Abkhazian.

Language has been the most sensitive problem historically for Georgia since the period of the Russian Empire and then the USSR, which pursued the policy of Russification.

The Georgian language has been one of the main uniting factors in the formation of the Georgian state.

The significant factor in Georgian national identity is that the Georgian original written language is one of the oldest written languages worldwide (it was created no later than III-IV centuries A.D.). But the oldest literary monument reached to us is dated by 5th c. AD. The Georgian alphabet is used in all dialects of the Georgian language. Only in Abkhazia has the modified Cyrillic alphabet been used since the establishment of the Soviet regime.

Two autonomous republics were formed– Abkhazia and Ajaria – which have their own language issues. Abkhazia is populated by two indigenous groups – Georgians and Abkhazs - whose linguistic difference is confirmed by the Constitution. Ajaria is populated by ethnic Georgian-Moslems, whose dialect is much closer to the literary Georgian language than the dialect of other regions and territories of Georgia, such as Mingrelia and Svanetia.

In Georgia, national minorities constitute 16.2% of the population, with the largest linguistic minorities being Azerbaijanis with 6.5% and Armenians with 5.7%. Until recently the most widespread language after Georgian was Russian.

The Constitution of Georgia obliges all departments, municipal services and users to use the Georgian language and all official versions of legislative texts must be published in Georgian. In order to promote integration of minorities and their participation in the state administration, the Ministry of Education and Science arranges intensive teaching of the official language.

The Georgian Language Programme, financed by the Ministry of Education and Sciences, was financed in the amount of 494 600 GEL in 2007, 366 000 GEL in 2008, and 1 723 900 GEL in 2009. The programme of teaching the official language in non-Georgian speaking schools was financed in the amount of 250 000 GEL in 2007 and 63 800 GEL in 2008. In 2009, this programme was replaced by the Programme of Support for Multilingual Education, with a budget 160 000 GEL.

Unfortunately, in the territories beyond the control of the government of Georgia, the teaching of the official language has been stopped and the system of education operating in Abkhazia is based on Abkhazian and Russian and, in the Tskhinvali Region, the education system is based on the Ossetian and Russian languages.

Although linguistic pluralism was at one time the subject of public discussion, the **Official Language Law** has not been adopted and the legislative activities have been considered impractical.

The issues of protection and development of language are within the terms of reference of the Ministry of Education and Science and the State Chamber for the Georgian Language. The latter has ceased to be an independent body since 2004 and now represents a part of the Ministry of Education and Science. The support and development of the literary language and language diversity as a cultural phenomenon are also the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection.

Since 2006, responsibility for the R&D institutes under the Academy of Sciences of Georgia has been delegated to the Ministry of Education and Science. Among these institutes are significant scientific and cultural centres for research and development of Georgian culture, language and literature such as:

- the Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics (financing: 116 600 GEL in 2006, 265 800 GEL in 2007 and 319 000 GEL in 2008);
- the Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature (financing: 144 100 GEL in 2006, 265 800 GEL in 2007 and 383 900 GEL in 2008); and
- the Korneli Kekelidze Institute of Manuscripts (financing: 88 600 GEL in 2006, 201 800 GEL in 2007 and 398 500GEL in 2008).

The Georgian language is the native language for a large number of ethnic Georgians who reside outside the country (about 5 million live in Azerbaijan, Turkey, Russia, Iran, Europe and the USA). Support and development of the Georgian language abroad is the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs via its Section for Cultural Relations and Relations with Diasporas. However, the funds assigned by the government for promotion of the language abroad are not adequate and this infrastructure requires further systematic development.

To solve this problem, the Ministry of Education and Science has implemented the Programme of Assistance for Georgian Schools Abroad, which was financed in the amount of 41 600 GEL in 2007, 45 000 GEL in 2008 and 100 000 GEL in 2009. In addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Education and Sciences, the maintenance and

development of the Georgian language abroad is a field of activity addressed by the new State Minister for Georgian Diasporas with a budget in 888 400 GEL (2008).

For promotion of the Georgian language within the process of globalisation and new communication networks, there is a need to create and distribute a Georgian version of software products (MS Windows and applications of Microsoft Office). This software issue will be resolved with the Microsoft Corporation by means of a working group which has prepared the Georgian version of the computer terminology (subject to further improvement). These communication issues are the responsibility of the Department for Information Development of Georgia and the State Chamber for the Georgian Language.

2015 - Law of Georgia On Official Language was adopted (SEE Chapter 5.1.9 Language laws)

4.2.6 Media pluralism and content diversity

Adoption of the **Laws on Broadcasting and on Telecommunications** has initiated a new stage of development of mass media and relations within Georgia.

The **Law on Broadcasting**, adopted in 2004, was developed in association with the EU and Georgia acceded to the EU Directive "TV without Frontiers". It specifies three kinds of radio and TV companies:

- *Public*: public TV is obliged to provide the balance between the genres of programmes, including cultural programmes, based on public interest.
- *Community*: community broadcasting companies undertake to provide, within their coverage and in the process of broadcasting, the participation of those residents which they serve and, accordingly, the coverage of minority issues, including cultural matters, in their native language (Abkhaz, Azeri, Armenian, Ossetian and Russian). These programmes play an important role in pluralism within the mass media and address diversity within the coverage of radio and TV mass media. See also ➡ [chapter 4.2.4](#) and ➡ [chapter 4.2.7](#).

Principal regulatory laws

• **The Constitution of Georgia**, 1995.

• **The Law on Broadcasting**, 2004 - The law defines the rule of broadcasting, rules and functions of an independent regulatory body in the field of broadcasting, terms of regulation of activity in this field, licensing rules and procedures in accordance with the principles of freedom of speech and freedom of expression and free entrepreneurship. The purpose of this Law is to formulate public broadcasting independent from state interference; to regulate the broadcasting activities in accordance with the principles of transparency, fairness and impartiality through an independent regulatory authority; to ensure the effective use of freedom of speech and opinion, stimulating competitive environment among broadcasters, equality and independence of license holders, effective use of frequencies.

• **Law on Electronic Communications**, 02.06.2005/1514-Il/ The law establishes the legal and economic basics of activity with electronic communication networks and facilities on the territory of Georgia, the principles of formation and regulation of the competitive environment in this sphere, the functions of the independent national regulatory authority (Georgian National Communication Commission), the rights and duties of natural persons and legal entities during ownership of electronic communication networks and facilities, their operation and service provision.

• **Law on Independent National Regulatory Authorities** -13.09. 2002 /N1666-Is. The purpose of this law is to create the stable legal basis and perfect institutional environment for the sustainable operation of the national regulatory authorities in order to provide in the various spheres of the economy the balancing of interests of license holders and consumers, effective pricing and providing services and goods. The law establishes: protection of independent regulatory authorities operating in Georgia from any political pressure, inappropriate influences and illegitimate interference of state authorities or other officials as well as from any other actions which may infringe their independence; the authority of implementation of the perfect regulation of the specific sphere; responsibility for ensuring the transparency and reliability of decision-making procedures.

- **The Law of Georgia on Freedom of Speech and Expression**, 24/06/2004 / # 220 - By this law the state recognizes and protects freedom of speech and expression as the invincible and supreme human values. During implementation of the authority, the people and the state are restricted by these rights and freedoms as directly applicable law.

Other laws

- **Law on Culture**, 12.06.1997 N751-IIs
- **Law on Advertising** 18/02/1998
- **Law on State Language**, 12.07.2015/4084-rs
- **Laws on Protection of Copyright and Related Rights**, 22/06/1999/2112-IIs
- **Law on Limiting Measures in Connection with Intellectual Property**, 23/06/1999/N2159-IIs
- **Law of Georgia on Occupied Territories 23/10/2008 # 431** - The purpose of this law is to define the status of those territories occupied as a result of the Russian Federation's military aggression, to establish the particular legal regime of these territories.
- **General Administrative Code of Georgia**, 25/06/1999 / # 2181 - This Code defines the rule of issuing and the enforcement of an administrative-legal act by the administrative authorities, review of administrative complaints and applications, preparation, conclusion and execution of an administrative deal. The purpose of the Code is to ensure the protection of human rights and freedoms, public interests and the rule of law by administrative bodies. Chapter III is dedicated to freedom of information.
- **Election Code** 27/12/2011/5636-RS. This law regulates the relations on the preparation and conduct of the election of the President of Georgia, the Parliament of Georgia, the representative body of the municipality - Sakrebulo, the executive body of municipality – the Mayor as well as of the referendum and plebiscite, determines the rights and guarantees of the participants of the elections, the rules and authority, of establishment of the election commission of Georgia as well as the dispute resolution procedure in cases provided by the law.
According to the Code, the voters' lists of electoral precincts belonging to ethnic minorities shall be placed on the CEC official website in the language of minority representatives in the election period);
- **Law on state language**, 12.07.2015

International documents

- **Directive No. 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of Europe on March 10, 2010** "On the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive)"
- **Berne Convention for the Protection of Literature and Artistic Works** (16/05/1995)

Media strategic documents

- General Concept of the Program Policy of the Public Broadcaster, 2017.
- The Transformation and Development Strategy of the Public Broadcaster "Quality, Depth, Diversity" – "Quality, Depth, Diversity" 2017.
- Decree #6 of the Georgian National Communications Commission, October 31, 2016 Article 3. Placement of programs produced in non-state language(s) in the broadcasting net.
- Code of Conduct for Public Broadcaster, 2006.

The estimated share of domestic television programmes produced in Georgia vs. imported products is 70 to 30. (Out of 30% imported product, the major part is manufactured in the USA, followed by Brazil, Argentina, Columbia, Turkey, and India (serials); some product is from the Russian Federation. Almost all products are dubbed by TV companies in Georgian (no exact statistical data is available, the information is given in general).

In compliance with the ***Laws on Telecommunications (adopted in 2004)***, on ***Broadcasting (2004)*** and on ***Independent Regulatory Commissions (2005)***, the **Georgian National Communications Commission (GNCC)**

– the independent regulatory authority – issued 92 licenses for TV and radio-broadcasting, as well as 67 licenses for cable TV and radio broadcasting by the end of 2004. None of these stations specialises in culture.

The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection promoted intercultural programmes through subsidies allocated to the TV company "MIR" (107 500 GEL in 2005). However, in 2006, the project was completed, appropriation of "MIR" was stopped and it was closed.

According to polls organised by the Georgian National Communications Commission (GNCC - independent regulatory authority), 46% of respondents declared a desire for the creation of a specialised cultural channel.

Plans to create a special TV channel "CULTURE", using the public television Channel 2, were discussed before reorganising the State TV and Radio Committee of Georgia into a public service broadcaster (*The Public Service Broadcaster is a legal entity of public law, independent of the state and accountable to the public, established under Georgian legislation, on the basis of public financing, for television or radio broadcasting. The Public Service Broadcaster does not subordinate to any state authority*), however, it did not come to fruition.

During the period 2000-2004 Georgia underwent market liberalisation, new competitors arrived on the market, and unauthorised channels were closed. The growth of revenues in the sector and advertising income is stable.

The Public Service Broadcaster is funded at 0.15% of GDP from the state budget. Parliament, when planning the state budget, relies on the approved GDP from the previous year, not on the projected GDP for the following year. For example, the state obligation to the Public Broadcaster in the 2007 budget was calculated according to the GDP of 2005. Because of this, the Public Broadcaster is not fully benefiting from the GDP growth, which initially was the main idea behind this scheme. The difference in this case amounts to GEL 1.5 million. The Public Broadcaster's budget in 2006 was GEL 16.5 million, with income from economic activities nearly GEL 2 million. Economic activities include income from limited advertising, rent, and sale of property. (<https://www.irex.org/region/europe-eurasia/georgia>)

In 2004-2005, public initiatives in the area of mass media also omitted the issues of culture and the need for analytical programmes related to cultural issues. In this period there was a decrease in the already small area of culture oriented programmes; in some cases this decline was caused by closing TV companies which had special culture programmes, in other cases the culture programmes were replaced with more profitable entertainment programmes, e.g. reality shows. In general, only some channels have short programmes in art and culture.

In 2007, the TV company "Iveria" was started, under the Patriarchy of the Georgian Apostolic Orthodox Church, which is oriented to religious and cultural development.

Development of **Internet projects** combining the spheres of culture is mainly prevented due to data processing problems.

2017

According to the data of 2016, culture and art make up 20% of the total content in Georgian public broadcasting. Source: Stat. from State TV, 2016; UNESCO CULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS Georgia's Analytical and Technical Report, 2017; <http://observatory.culturepartnership.eu/en/article/cdis-georgia>

There are no other in-depth statistics; no targeted surveys in media are conducted on the role of culture and cultural content; journalists are not interested in culture issues.

According to the project by YTA Union ``Pilot Scheme for Monitoring Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions`` (2017):

`` **Promoting the growth of the number of users of print, broadcast and internet media and the Internet;**
Quantitative indicators of print, broadcast and Internet media users:

Print Media: The circulation of books and newspapers / brochures in millions of copies:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011-2012	2013-2016
2.8	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.8	3.1

Source http://www.geostat.ge/?action=page&p_id=208&lang=geo

Broadcast media:

The acting persons subject to the regulation of the GNCC – 410, where only broadcasting - 76; telecommunication and broadcasting, -17; only electronic communications - 310; only Non-Communications - 7. – "The 2015 Activity Report" (short version).

Source: <http://www.gncc.ge/uploads/other/2/2034.pdf> ; <https://analytics.gncc.ge/>

Three out of the broadcast media outlets are the National Public Broadcaster and 29 local broadcasting companies, while 35 companies have a satellite transmission license.

Source: Georgian National Communication Commission <https://analytics.gncc.ge/ka/statistics/?c=broadcasting&sid=341546>

Mobile service:

Currently 5 mobile operators operate in Georgia. The number of mobile subscribers in October of 2017 was: individuals - 3,754,079, corporate -1,301,628, total 5,055,707.

Fixed broadband service

According to the data of the second quarter of 2015, optical fiber service was provided by 32 authorized entities, DSL services - by 13 entities, WiMax – by 3 entities, WiFi – by 121 entities. Number of fixed broadband services subscribers in Georgia in the second quarter of 2015 was 606.45 thousand subscribers. Compared to the second quarter of 2014, the number of subscribers increased by 5.5% (31.74 thousand subscribers). Density of fixed broadband subscribers amounted to 48.5%.

Internet media and Internet users

Out of persons subject to regulation by the GNCC the telecommunication and broadcasting entities jointly make 17; only electronic communications - 310.

Source: <http://www.gncc.ge/uploads/other/2/2034.pdf> ; <https://analytics.gncc.ge/> ``

The majority of national and local periodicals are privately owned.

Table 3: Circulation of books, magazines and newspapers in Georgia, 2005-2017

Publishing of Books, Magazines and Newspapers													
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of copies, mln.	0,3	2,4	2,8	1,9	2,1	2,2	2,8	2,8	3,1	3,1	3,1	3,1	
Annual circulation of magazines and other periodicals, mln. copies	1,1	3,4	16,2	19,2	23,2	25,9	27,4	27,7	27,8	27,8	27,8	27,8	
Number of newspapers, unit	88	209	181	221	199	225	284	301	311	313	314	317	
Of which daily	...	13	15	15	12	14	12	14	14	14	14	14	16
2-3-times in a week ¹⁾	...	17	15	17	6	6	17	18	19	19	19	19	10
Weekly	...	59	50	57	12	17	49	49	51	52	51	51	52

Twice in month	...	34	25	32	19	29	24	25	26	26	26	26	12
Monthly	...	45	46	70	121	126	68	73	76	77	77	78	37
Once in every 2-3 month	...	13	6	8	5	8	35	38	39	39	39	39	12
Single Publishing	...	7	7	6	10	11	15	13	13	13	14	15	25
Annual Publishing	...	3	3	6	2	3	27	33	34	34	34	34	3
Irregular Publishing	...	18	14	10	12	11	37	38	39	39	40	41	51
Single circulation, mln. copies	0,4	0,8	0,5	0,7	0,5	0,8	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	...
Annual circulation, mln. copies	17,9	35,9	33,3	33,2	35,1	46,7	51,5	57,4	60,4	60,4	60,4	60,4	

¹⁾ in 2006-2008 years 2-4 times in a week.

Source: Ilia Chavchavadze National Parliamentary Library of Georgia

Notwithstanding the development of the media, and the high prestige attached to the field of journalism, there are no special training programmes for journalists in Georgia aimed at increasing their sensitivity to the culture-related issues and conflicts. Consequently, professionalism is an issue among those journalists who are engaged in cultural issues.

There are no special antitrust measures and legal bases for preventing media concentration in Georgia. This promotes the trend of monopolisation of mass media by the central authorities and ideologising of previously independent TV companies which has developed in 2006-2007. As a result of transfer and distribution of shares they fell in hands of the pro-governmental forces.

The political crisis of November 2007 sharply exposed the problems related to the independent mass media. Surveys showed that the most highly rated and balanced TV Company was TV "Imedi" the main competitor of the pro-governmental TV stations. "Imedi", a part of Imedi Media Holding and its management, was transferred for one year to News Corporation, owned by Rupert Murdoch. This TV Company covered all burning topics of the day and in November 2007 arranged live debates with representatives of the opposition. However, on November 7, after the attack on the rally of the opposition and *before declaration* of the state of emergency, the state authorities occupied the TV Company building and forcibly stopped it broadcasting without any substantiating documents. In the same manner, the broadcasting of independent TV companies "Caucasia", "25th Channel" (Batumi), Radio "Imedi" were also stopped. Thereafter, the assets of the opposition TV company "Imedi" were taken over by a court decision and the Georgian National Communication Commission (GNCC) deprived the TV company of its license. Such actions of the government caused indignation inside the country and outside it. All democratically disposed people (regardless of political belonging) demanded the re-opening of TV Channel "Imedi". The Ombudsman of Georgia appealed for the restoration of freedom of speech.

Although the state of emergency ended on November 16, 2007, "media freedom is still a matter of our concern", according to the defence and foreign ministers of EU member states at a meeting held in Brussels on 19-20 November 2007. The EU Board underlined the significance of creating the conditions required for the establishment of adequate democratic processes prior to the pre-term presidential elections (5 January 2008). At the beginning of the summer 2008, TV "Imedi" was back on the air, although it has yet to achieve its former rating levels.

In this context, the cultural issues are of minor importance for TV channels, nevertheless some well-known representatives of Georgian culture have increased interest in various political issues.

In 2010 the amendments in the *Media Law* have been drafted in two variants of the bill. One variant is presented by the ruling party and this bill provides the transparency of mass media owners, restriction of norms for the owners (legal

entities registered in the offshore area are prohibited from owning broadcasting media). The other variant is prepared by media-experts and journalists and presented by the parliamentary opposition minority. This bill covers the larger range of problems such as registration and licensing, transparency of state financing and transparency of ownership in the media field, problems of monopolisation, and the role and level of independence of the Communications Regulatory Commission etc. The amendments were adopted at the end of 2010.

2017

Indicator of freedom of expression

According to the Freedom House report, freedom of expression in Georgia in 2015 was 48%, compared to 47% in 2014 and 52% in 2012. Methodology: UNESCO CDIS.

Source: UNESCO CULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS Georgia's Analytical and Technical Report, 2017

The Draft **Law On Freedom of Information** was submitted for review to the Ministry of Justice (2017)

ARTAREA

The only culture-oriented TV channel in Georgian media is "Artarea". This is a private television channel. In May 2012, TBC Bank created the first cultural web portal; the Internet TV version of "Artarea". Since December 25th, 2013, Artarea has broadcast as a cable television channel. "Artarea" was originally created by the sponsorship of TBC Bank. Currently, the company operates independently and its programs are funded by various organizations, including the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. <http://artarea.tv/>

In 2014, an important innovation in the sphere of public broadcasting TV is the project "My book" which aims to promote books and literature in Georgia. Georgian analogue of this BBC mega-project is being aired on the First Channel of Georgia's Public Broadcaster (GPB) starting in March 2014 and is produced in close cooperation with the National Library of Georgia.

2016

Media and Broadcasting issues are included in the "Cultural Strategy 2025" (01.07.2016) <https://tinyurl.com/y9xhm3cc>

Chapter III: Sector-specific Tasks

Media and Broadcasting

- Use the potential of the media to advance public awareness about culture, cultural diversity and inter-cultural dialogue;
- Update laws and regulations and plan mechanisms in order to establish and develop cultural media outlets (amongst them, national cultural broadcast, online editions, blogs, etc.), encourage regional, private commercial and non-commercial media to produce cultural products and to cover cultural processes;
- Design measures (e.g. financial aid for film production, production of television and radio, performances and television shows) to help the public broadcaster contribute to the creation and distribution of products of cultural importance;
- Produce special public broadcasting programmes, both in the official and ethnic languages, to expand opportunities for ethnic minorities to access the information about cultural processes;
- Support institutions of higher education to develop programmes in cultural journalism and facilitate the participation of journalists working on culture in local and international training programmes;

- Sustain critical evaluation of professional activities to enable analysis of cultural life, which shall in return lead to increased public awareness and allow cultural professionals to assess their own work.`

2017 Policy and strategic documents:

- Strategic documents relevant to the ratified international counterparts defining freedom of information (harmonizing them with national legislation), have been adopted.
- There is statistical evidence of an increase of the number of consumers (physical and legal persons) of media and digital services
- There are the general media monitoring and numerous NGOs implementing it.

Media policy watchdogs:

- IDFI - Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, <https://idfi.ge/en>
- Open Society - Georgia Foundation, www.osgf.ge
- Charter of Journalism Ethics, www.qartia.ge
- Media Development Fund, MDF - www.gendermediator.ge
- Transparency International - Georgia, www.transparency.ge
- Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center, www.mediachecker.ge
- Open Governance Partnership (OGP) - Coalition for Media Advocacy
<http://www.csb.gov.ge/uploads/recommendtion.pdf>
- Civil Society Portal <http://www.cso.ge/>
- IPM Media Monitoring - mediamonitring.ge
- Media Development Center - mdfgeorgia.ge
- Media Monitoring Center - <https://gipa.ge/>
- Internews Georgia - <http://www.internews.ge/>

Monitoring projects

- Interim Report of Public Broadcaster. *International Transparency - Georgia Tbilisi, 2016;*
http://www.transparency.ge/sites/default/files/post_attachments/sazogadoebrivi_maucqebelis_monitoringis_shual_eduri_angarishi.pdf
- Media for transparent and accountable governance. *Transparency International Georgia Tbilisi, 2016;*
http://www.cso.ge/organization_project.php?slug=media-gamchvirvale-da-angarishvaldebuli-mmartvelobistvis

There are supervisory organizations, media monitoring projects, and continuing studies and debates, but they do not refer to cultural content.

Cultural diversity oriented activities

- The cultural activities carried out through the initiative of various organizations (mainly local and non-governmental organizations, as well as international organizations) are covered with more or less intensity by the Public Broadcaster.

4.2.7 Intercultural dialogue: actors, strategies, programmes

The Ministry of Education and Science regards the issue of intercultural dialogue as important for educational policy in Georgia. However, at the present stage, intercultural dialogue in Georgia is not considered as a priority of state cultural policy.

National Goals for Education were adopted in Georgia in October 2004, stating the development of intercultural skills for graduates of secondary education as one of its priorities.

One of the third sector unions engaged in the introduction and promotion of intercultural dialogue in Georgia is the Public Movement "Multinational Georgia".

The Centre for Cultural Relations of Georgia - **Caucasian House** - is a cultural, educational and peacekeeping institution (it receives state financial support). One of the priorities of the **Caucasian House** is to protect human rights and establish religious and ethnic tolerance, promote peaceful co-existence of different cultures, support cultural integration of and collaboration with the Caucasian people. In 1999, the Caucasian House, together with other NGOs, created - **the Union - Caucasian House**, which is situated in the same building and is made up of the following Departments:

- **The Caucasian Department:** Strives to protect the vanishing, archaic Caucasian languages; cooperates with representatives of national minorities in the cultural life of the country; studies the modern history of the Caucasus, their ethno-psychology, political thinking and the nature of ethnic conflicts; informs the organisations and individuals interested in the issues of the Caucasus;
- **European-American Department:** Issues the magazine *Apra*, with Georgian translations of important pieces of western literature, philosophy and theology (since 1997, 11 copies have been published);
- **Slavonic Department and the Smirnov Family Museum – The Pushkin Memorial:** The Smirnov family collection, granted to Georgia in 1985, includes the furniture of the splendid literary salon of Alexandra Smirnova-Rosset (1809-1882), famed as the author of memoirs, Maid of Honour at the courts of two Empresses. The Slavonic Department collaborates with the Russian community in Georgia, pupils and teachers of Russian schools and arranges literary soirées in the museum; and
- **Oriental Department-Centre for studying Islamic culture in the Caucasus:** At the Centre for studying Islamic culture in the Caucasus, the Koran is being scientifically translated from Arabian into Georgian, with Shi'ite and Sunni comments. At the Centre, information is provided for scientists, students and individual Muslims living in Georgia who are interested in Islam. Persian and Arabian literature is translated at the Centre as well.

There is a wealth of project supported by foundations to foster intercultural dialogue. Below is an overview of their recent activities:

Current projects supported by the **Heinrich Boll Foundation:**

- meetings with national and religious minorities and joint cultural activities;
- work of the inter-religious council which also organises seminars and educational work to help prevent religious extremism); and
- Joint Prayer for the Faithful of the Caucasus (once a year, at the same time, people of different ethnic backgrounds and religions of the Caucasus pray for the salvation of the Caucasus).

Current projects supported by the European Foundation **HORIZON:**

- Sunday school for refugees and socially vulnerable children (since 2001);
- Institute of Caucasiology (since September, 2004);
- Caucasian Peoples' Folklore (multivolume reference tool);
- Books on the people of the Caucasus; and
- The Centre for studying Islamic Culture in the Caucasus (including translations of the Koran with comments).

The Democratic Commission of Small Grants of the USA Embassy provides support for the Georgian - Abkhazian public and political newspaper "Kavkazski Akcent".

The British non-governmental organisation "Conciliation Resources" provides support for the Russian language edition of the "Kavkazski Akcent" newspaper, The Life Histories publication which includes stories about the war narrated by Abkhazians and Georgians.

Additional Resources:

⇒ [Database of Good Practice on Intercultural Dialogue](#)

⇒ [Key Resources](#)

4.2.8 Social cohesion and cultural policies

The current public opinion polls studying values and social cohesion do not include any culture related information. However, there are many works regarding the problems facing internally displaced persons (IDP). Following the Russian-Georgian conflict in August 2008, voluntary assistance and donations by non-governmental and professionals organisations to support IDP's increased to help address their material needs and psychological rehabilitation.

The state assistance to IDPs is minimal, which causes social discontent of both IDPs and other residents. The majority of IDPs (300 000) residing in Georgia are ethnical Georgians who were forced to leave their homes in Abkhazia after the ethnical cleansing executed by separatists. Since integration of IDPs in other regions has been difficult due to unemployment and inflation, the idea of the social integrity is unsteady. However, all groups of the population and, especially, the government are proclaiming the adherence of national interests to the idea of national integrity.

We may only assume (as there are no special researches or debates thereof) that the culture is not used as the instrument for reinforcement of social cohesion. At the same time the concept of national integrity has ever been supported with the national culture and the national culture has been the basic parameter of the national identity.

Recently, the issues of social cohesion are considered by the government in the context of integration of all layers of youth – representatives of national minorities, urban and rural residents. The main participants of the process are governmental structures. For example, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia effectively is engaged in the planning of such programmes. The working process is implemented in close cooperation with the youth organisations, international organisations and various public institutions.

The priorities of youth programmes for 2011:

- promotion of informal and civil education for young people;
- promotion of participation of youth in civil processes;
- introduction of state planning, respect for civil and democratic values, promotion of active civil position, volunteerism, civil liability protection, legitimacy, healthy mode of life; and
- support for youth initiatives and encouragement of cultural and creative initiatives.

The most noteworthy among the youth programmes is the project of the international youth camp "Patriot", the entertainment and educational programme of informal education initiated by the President of Georgia.

Supported by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, the Solidarity Fund and different cultural organisations ("Eastern Promotion, Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre") signed the Memorandum, under which the parties backed the creation of the appropriate alternative resources for socially vulnerable people or persons facing crisis who reside in Georgia.

The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia is also involved in various projects supporting vulnerable or disabled people, or people who need other types of assistance. One example is the project "Come to Know Me", implemented in Dimitri Shevardnadze National Gallery, together with adolescents with Down syndrome, and involving professional artists and top officials in Georgia. The project was implemented by the Union "Our Children", with the partnership of the National Museum of Georgia, the Ministry of Diaspora Issues and the National Centre for Children and Youth. It is aimed at raising awareness of people with Down syndrome and their integration into society.

There are positive examples of international collaboration in the context of socially oriented projects. The project "Discover Eliava" is aimed to reduce the adverse effects on the environment, to draw public attention and to strengthen social cohesion with the help of artists. This idea is implemented by the art organisation "Geoair", together with the Green Art Lab Alliance (GALA) and the "Culture and Management Lab" under an initiative sponsored in the frames of the cultural programme of the European Commission. <http://geoair.blogspot.com/>

In the milestone document adopted in 2016 - "**Culture Strategy 2025**" - an important place was attributed to the equal access of different groups to culture.

Strategic Area 2 "**Access to Culture and Cultural Diversity**" includes relevant aims and objectives:

„Goal: Culture is accessible to all members of the society and the freedom of cultural expression is safeguarded.

2.1. Objective: Culture is made accessible to all, including the communities in mountainous regions, municipalities adjacent to the state borders, occupied territories and across the dividing lines of occupied territories.

Tasks:

- Support the establishment and development of multifunctional cultural spaces (community centres, cultural centres, social clubs), support the renovation of appropriate buildings across the country, including mountainous settlements, border areas and the areas across dividing lines of occupied territories based on mapping and specific criteria (distance, number of inhabitants, etc.);
- In order to achieve the goal of improving cultural management practices in regions, define the role of municipal civil servants responsible for cultural affairs, ensure their professional development (training, certification, etc.) and mobilise necessary intellectual resources by means of coordinated work carried out by relevant central and municipal public agencies;
- Enforce inter-regional collaboration and support joint initiatives; encourage participation of the inhabitants of the regions in cultural activities of other regions, in order to foster human resources employed in culture and to promote their work (performances, concerts, exhibitions, films, books, etc.) on national level;
- Encourage/support the application of innovative methods (mobile cinemas, concert stages and libraries, live transmission of opera and drama performances in cinemas and etc.) to promote culture in the regions.

2.2. Objective: All members of the society, including vulnerable groups, youth and minorities are actively engaged in cultural life and have access to cultural infrastructure and resources.

Tasks:

- Organise cultural and creative projects, initiatives, events and campaigns and support access to appropriate spaces/facilities in order to reinvigorate the contribution of vulnerable groups, youth and minorities to cultural life;
- Support the development of specially adopted media programmes in order to contribute to the integration of vulnerable and minority groups into the general public;
- Elaborate incentive measures for students representing disability groups, refugees, IDP's, residents of occupied territories, repatriates and socially vulnerable citizens, in order to ensure their access to cultural studies;
- Support and encourage cultural institutions, organisations and the businesses, including on the legislative level, in order to provide people with disabilities, socially vulnerable groups, refugees, IDPs, residents of occupied territories with the availability of special services (e.g. lower price tickets, free entrance, informational meetings, etc.) and employment opportunities;
- Support the engagement of the children and youth groups representing refugees and IDPs, repatriates and Georgian citizens residing in occupied territories and abroad in different cultural projects in order to ensure their integration with local coevals;
- Support cultural initiatives of minorities and enhance their knowledge of the Georgian language in order to ensure they have a fair part in the country's cultural life;
- Ensure that cultural infrastructure, new and existing facilities, comply with accessibility requirements for people with disabilities, adopting them where necessary;

- Train the employees of cultural establishments and organisations to develop their skills necessary for communication with vulnerable groups;
- Support cultural establishments and organisations in providing special programmes and materials (e.g. audio-books, books with Braille font, sign-interpretation, subtitles, on-line and digital applications, etc.) for people with disabilities;
- Support the implementation of legal and regulatory mechanisms, creation of favourable environment and special programmes in order to support the inclusion of people with disabilities in cultural/arts educational processes at all levels of education;
- Ensure that principles of gender equality are taken into account during the planning and implementation of cultural policy, use the potential of culture to foster gender equality.´´

Therefore, Georgia for the first time institutionalizes the access to culture and declares social issues in the context of culture policy.

The next step was the preparation of a "Roadmap for Ensuring Equal Participation of People with Disabilities in Georgia's Cultural and Creative Life for 2017-2018" by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia in 2017.

<http://mcs.gov.ge/getattachment/Public-Info/saministros-mier-shemushavebuli-strategiebi,-konce/kulturul-da-shemoqmedebit-ckhovrebashi-shshm-pirta.pdf.aspx>

'This document aims to create the conceptual framework and mechanisms that will facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in the cultural life of society. The Roadmap is focused on the challenges of accessibility to culture and creativity, cultural education and services by persons with disabilities and contains the list of activities to be carried out by the Ministry in cooperation with relevant authorities (Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia; Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and others) in 2017-2018. The activities provided by the abovementioned Action Plan were planned by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, involving various agencies, local or international NGOs working on issues of persons with disabilities, the association of persons of children with disabilities and directly persons with disabilities.

The document reflects the legislative framework regulating the sphere, challenges in terms of the access to culture for disabled persons, the problems of infrastructure adaptation, as well as cultural and art events, inclusive cultural tourism, inclusive education and employment issues for people with disabilities.

The Roadmap activities have been planned based on the problems identified by the monitoring of the situational analysis/research, quantitative and qualitative data."

Consequently, the ``**Action Plan for Equal Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Cultural and Creative Life, 2017-2018**`` was created.

In the context of **Strategic Area 2 "Access to Culture and Cultural Diversity" (Culture Strategy 2025"**), in 2015-2016, budgetary amounts were used to involve people with disabilities in the cultural life: in 2015 (fact) - 212,000 GEL, in 2016 (plan) - 200,000 GEL. 24 activities were carried out, involving 70 people with disabilities; 10,300 visitors attended.

In the years 2015-2016, the activities of the Union for the Blinds of the Georgia Cultural Center and the Deaf Union of Georgia were promoted. In particular, the following was implemented:

- 3 performances
- 3 literature events
- 4 exhibitions
- 12 concerts
- 2 charity concerts
- 15 audio books

Also, the integrated concerts, exhibitions, performances with the participation of people with disabilities of different nosologies were promoted, adapted versions of the films "Jay's Wedding" and "I See the Sun" were created.

In 2017, within the frames of the strategic aim "Development of Culture Infrastructure and Facilitating Public Access to Culture" and the objective "Integration of Persons with Disabilities" the following was implemented:

- Project "Inclusive Education in Georgian Museums", 370 participants
- 10 projects, 209 participants with disabilities - exhibitions, performances, concerts and other cultural events.

Displaced persons

The issue of internally displaced persons remains an acute problem, as it has been since the very first years of Georgia's independence. **The Culture Strategy 2025**, also envisages to ensure access to culture for this extremely vulnerable and large group (approximately 300.000 people, about 8% of the Georgian population), as well as social integration and employment through cultural industries.

In 2016, the promotion of art circles in the areas of compact settlement of IDPs was implemented - the budget amount was 228,000 GEL.

- In 12 areas of compact settlement - Khashuri, Koda, Gori, Tsilkani, Akhalsopeli, Mtsisi, Teliani, Metekhi, Karaleti, Skra, Shavshvebi and Tserovani - there are functioning art circles in 12 different fields: embroidery, drawing, woodcarving, pop and folk songs, folk instruments.
- 700 students were able to get free education in different arts;
- 79 teachers are employed.

In 2016 various measures were carried out in the regions along the separating line of the administrative border (Rukhi, Anaklia, Orsantia, Nikozi, Ditsi).

- Meetings with writers - 9
- Performances - 2
- Film screenings - 5
- Concerts -7

4.2.9 Employment policies for the cultural sector

Statistical data on employment in the cultural sector is not available.

In light of the annual growth in unemployment (exact data is not available) and a lack of regulation of social protection for workers, employment issues in the culture sphere are not a current issue of importance for the state.

In Georgia, the reorganisation of the social infrastructure, including the cultural sphere, is a continuing process; in 2004 alone, the municipal service for culture was reorganised three times. The institutions subordinate to the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection are also in the process of reorganisation (see ➡ [chapter 4.1](#)) which has reduced the number of staff employed in the cultural sector.

The highest unemployment rate is evident in the intellectual, cultural sphere. The wages of cultural workers are the lowest in the public sector (84 GEL monthly); the average wage amounts to 150 GEL (Doctors and teachers earn 100 GEL per month, street cleaners earn 200 GEL and judges earn 1 700 GEL).

Table 4: Number of employees and remuneration in Georgia, in GEL, 2004

Number of employees in 2004			
	Women	Men	Total
Culture, entertainment, recreation	20 700	22 000	42 700
	Urban	Rural	Total
Culture, entertainment, recreation	34 400	8 300	42 700
Remuneration in 2004			
	Women	Men	Total
Culture, entertainment, recreation	69.8	110.4	84.8

Source: State Department for Statistics

In 2007, employment in the sphere of culture has steadily declined, but no statistical research on this issue has been conducted yet.

According to the survey conducted in 2017, **UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators / Georgia's Analytical and Technical Report** the employment in the cultural sphere provides 5.2% of total employment.

<https://www.culturepartnership.eu/upload/editor/2017/Policy%20Briefs/CDIS%20Georgia%20Analytical%20and%20Technical%20Report.pdf>

At the same time, the income of those employed in public agencies significantly differs according to the spheres and institutions.

Table 5. Number of staff and salaries according to the forms of art in the public institutions of Georgia, in GEL, 2016

Sphere	Number of legal entities	Number of staff	Average salary	Activities
Cinema	1	23	1,486	More than 100 screenings at film festivals Up to 30 awards Georgian Cinema Days in 5 countries 2 film productions became the winner of the Eurimages Foundation 10 local international film festivals
Literature	2	30	1,341	447 events and 178,450 visitors.
Music	5	426	1000	224 concerts 4 music festivals 13 charity concerts (1,263,742 GEL) 6 contests 17 anniversary events Over 200,000 listeners
Folklore	5	346	797	State Folklore Center: 1 Folklore National Festival Representation in 15 municipalities and choirmaster school 15 expeditions in Georgia, 1 expedition abroad Georgian Folk Song Festival "Nikozi 2015" "Svan Zari" - the element of the intangible cultural heritage Folk poetry event "The Verse Not To Be Lost" Digitalization of 8000 traditional handwritten folk chorales 4 folk ensembles

				142 concerts 121 tours 345,150 viewers and listeners
Cultural heritage protection	1	289	646	Monuments registered on the territory of Georgia - 11,200 Movable monuments - 7,051 Immovable monuments - 4,112 Intangible monuments - 31 Monuments of national category - 483 Listed in UNESCO World Heritage - 5 Monuments located on the occupied territory - 285 Known monuments abroad - more than 100
Art education	6	1,619	603	Activities - 1,034
Cultural centers for ethnic minorities	6 (3 theaters and 3 museums)	326	527	28 events, 3,000 visitors
Museums under the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia	25	1206	485	Activities - 782 Attendees - 590,000
Theater	29 (12 in the capital city and 17 in regions)	2,224	740 GEL (in the capital city) 387 GEL (in regions)	4,120 performances 116 openings 242 guest and tour performances 24 charity performances Participation of 15 theaters in 23 international festivals 564,000 spectators
Fine arts	No data available	No data available	No data available	51 activities; more than 700,000 visitors Local activities (2015-2016): Tbilisi Triennial Artisterium - 13 participant countries Festinova 19 albums of Georgian artists 8 exhibitions – the Contemporary Art Gallery Activities outside the country (2015-2016) Venice Biennale** Istanbul Biennale* Kyiv Biennale* Prague Quadrennial

Source: Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection Report 2016.

4.2.10 Gender equality and cultural policies

In 1996, Georgia acceded to the International Convention on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value adopted on 29 June 1951 by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation, arranged by the Administrative Council of the International Labour Bureau. However, according to the available statistical data, the average remuneration of women engaged in the sphere of culture, entertainment and recreation is only 63% of the remuneration of men engaged in the same sphere. Among the Ministry staff, the number of women decreases in positions of responsibility: in 2004, out of 118 employees of the Ministry, 70 were women (59%); in 2005, out of 151 employees, only 81 are women (54%). The current Minister is male and only one of his deputies (20%) is a woman; from heads of 10 departments, 5 are women (50%). Since 2006 all deputy ministers are male.

In the 45 theatres responsible to the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, four of the art directors are women and there are only seven women managers (24 % of the top positions). A great number of women are employed as librarians (99%). Out of total 3 325 employees of libraries 3 305 are women.

There is no more precise statistical data relating to the employment of women in the sphere of culture, nor have gender issues been examined in the context of culture.

The total unemployment rate in Georgia in 2005 was 13.8%, and in 2010 was 16.9%.

In 2017 the survey "**Pilot Scheme for Monitoring Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**" was conducted, 2017, Tbilisi. (Project by V. Gunia Union of Young Theater Artists - YTA Union).

According to the survey, the challenges are as follows:

Section IV. Promoting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Area of monitoring 8 – Gender Equality

Challenges

1. Legislation

The issue of gender equality in culture legislation is reflected very generally; specifically, women's cultural rights, including the right to express their creativity, are not covered.

2. Gender projects in culture are available as separate initiatives of non-governmental organizations and international organizations

that cannot provide the sustainable support for the consumption and availability of cultural goods and services by women and their involvement in and access to the cultural life.

3. There are no culture and gender correlation studies

which provide reliable data and information for creation of new policies. There is also no targeted budgetary research **institution/organization** (only Geostat is available, which provides only general information that is not enough);

There is no mechanisms for **monitoring, evaluation and review of gender equality policy in culture**; there is no **research base and methodology**; the efforts of NGOs in this direction are unsustainable.'

"There are general awareness programs on gender equality that are implemented by the non-governmental sector and the state (see the Parliamentary Gender Equality Council plans <http://www.parliament.ge/ge/saparlamento-saqmianoba/komisiebi-da-sabchoebi-8/genderuli-tanasworobis-sabcho>; UN Women's Projects (<http://georgia.unwomen.org/en/digital library/publications?Country=5b8a019c5cf84f9ebddd61da95160f1f> and others)

The only one target-oriented precedent in the cultural sphere is the competition for creation a documentary film jointly held by the Georgian National Film Center (GNFC) and UN Women -17.11.2013.'

„Among those employed in the field of culture the share of women is higher (5.6% women against 4.8% of men). Women's average remuneration in the field of culture is less than the men's average remuneration (no concrete statistical data available regarding remuneration amounts and gender in the cultural field). The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection records the exhibitions, publications, concerts and other cultural activities, with participation of and leadership by women, but this is not a part of the program.'

In 2017, in accordance with the Culture Strategy 2025 the following is scheduled and underway:

Raising public awareness on gender equality

- Supporting thematic projects on gender equality
- Supporting women's creative activities

In the framework of the promotion of child protection and social integration, the internal instruction of children's referral, was introduced in 8 out-of-school facilities.

4.2.11 New technologies and digitalisation in the arts and culture

The general state of ICTD in Georgia may be described as "spontaneous computerisation", without any single strategy for development of the sector. The information space in Georgia, though experiencing some progress, is at a transitional stage towards democracy and requires reforms for free access and distribution, reliability of information etc.

Table 5: Internet retail subscribers, 2010-2013

	1st Quarter 2010	1st Quarter 2011	1st Quarter 2012	1st Quarter 2013
DSL technology	137 036	174 542	206 379	213 045
Fiber-Optic technology	66 120	93 638	136 955	197 524
EVDO&CDMA technology	33 334	55 812	61 674	51 567
Wi-Fi technology	405	1 867	9 108	21 018

Source: National Communications Committee

Table 6: Statistical data on mobile phones, 2010-2013

Year	2010	2011	2012	1st Quarter 2013
Total number of mobiles	--	70 813	51 014	125 253

Source: National Communications Committee

Internet : Subscribers (individuals) according to the companies

	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>October 2017</i>
<i>Silknet</i>	<i>202,627</i>	<i>218,915</i>	<i>229,955</i>	<i>252,697</i>	<i>262,857</i>
<i>Caucasus Online</i>	<i>141,068</i>	<i>155,126</i>	<i>151,126</i>		
<i>Magticom</i>	<i>7,857</i>	<i>8,377</i>	<i>5,071</i>	<i>168,690</i>	<i>258,483</i>
<i>New Net</i>	<i>35,058</i>	<i>39,277</i>	<i>41,232</i>	<i>40,268</i>	<i>35,490</i>
<i>CGC</i>	<i>22,397</i>	<i>24,729</i>	<i>25,087</i>	<i>25,590</i>	<i>20,197</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>409,007</i>	<i>446,424</i>	<i>452,443</i>	<i>487,245</i>	<i>577,027</i>

Source: National Communications Committee

Internet: subscriber according to technologies (all)

	<u>Dec 2014</u>	<u>Dec 2015</u>	<u>Dec 2016</u>	<u>October 2017</u>
<u>Fiber</u>	<u>292,915</u>	<u>334,319</u>	<u>392,850</u>	<u>490,534</u>
<u>xDSL</u>	<u>203,233</u>	<u>173,653</u>	<u>145,657</u>	<u>114,039</u>
<u>Wi-Fi</u>	<u>63,403</u>	<u>76,244</u>	<u>88,049</u>	<u>79,749</u>

CDMA	<u>8,581</u>	<u>5,188</u>	<u>18,245</u>	<u>11,649</u>
LTE	<u>154</u>	<u>11,332</u>	<u>21,614</u>	<u>22,885</u>
Total	<u>568,286</u>	<u>600,516</u>	<u>666,415</u>	<u>718,856</u>

Source: National Communications Committee

<https://analytics.gncc.ge/ka/statistics/?c=internet&sid=435551&f=subscribers&exp=companies>

Increase in the number of Internet users (2016 data)

In 2016, 40% of the population daily used the internet. This data exceeds the 2015 figure by 5%. The number of people who did not use the internet in 2015 (46%) decreased by 3%. The number of people who did not know what the internet is, is 1% of the total number. From 49% of respondents, or those who use the internet at least once a month, 78% use the internet to enter social networks. About 51% of the respondents search the for information on the internet. Out of the same 49%, 28% use the internet for sending and receiving letters, 10% of them are familiar with blogs, 7% play online games, 4% use chat programmes, 3% use forums and 2% use the internet for online purchases and other purposes. Of the 49% of the population, 86% are using Facebook, 42% Odnoklassniki, 13% VKontakte and 5% - Twitter.

Source: Transparency International Georgia: the study was conducted by the Caucasus Research Resource Centers in March, 2016, total 2032 citizens were surveyed. ** <http://www.cipdd.org>

National top level domain .ge

With the initiative and support of the Georgian National Communications Commission, Georgia was granted the national top-level domain ".ge" by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). In 2015 the preparatory works were completed for registration of the Internet domain names in the .ge-zone. With the introduction of the .ge-domain it is possible to register full internet domain names with the Georgian "mkhedruli" alphabet.'

Source <http://www.gncc.ge/uploads/other/2/2034.pdf> ; <https://analytics.gncc.ge/>

Adoption of the **Law on Telecommunications (2005)** and **Law on Independent Regulatory Committees (2005)** initiated favourable circumstances for the development of new media.

The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia intends to use modern technologies for the creation of a full national database of cultural heritage, although this is a project for the future. A similar programme of upgrading museums is under development, although not many museums have websites. In the library sphere the situation is more than critical. The university system also suffers from a lack of development in the ICT sector. Most of the traditional cultural institutions still cannot meet the requirements of the information society.

The Information Systems in Cultural Heritage Management

The first project in Georgia drawing on the European experience of applying GIS for the inventory of cultural heritage was the Tbilisi Pilot Project implemented in 1999-2000, in the scope of the joint programme of the World Bank and the Georgian government implemented with the assistance of the Council of Europe. The methodology elaborated within this project enabled the development of large scale GIS projects for the inventory of urban heritage in Tbilisi, Batumi and Abastumani in 2005-2008. The elaboration of the Historical-Cultural Reference Plans of these historic cities was made possible thanks to the immense data processing and analytical capacity offered by the GIS.

In the scope of Tbilisi and Batumi projects, a special computer programme has been created to manage and process information in digital format. The programme allows integration of attribute and graphical data and is equipped with a comprehensive search tool and a tool for generating different thematic maps.

This GIS based programme has set the model for elaboration of Historical-Cultural Reference Plans in other historic towns and settlements. Moreover, GIS has been increasingly used in the inventory of immovable objects and for creation of cultural heritage protection zones all over the country (e.g. Mtskheta, Kutaisi, Signaghi, Telavi, etc).

As the experience and volume of the digitalised information has been steadily growing in recent years, the need to systematise the information and create an integrated information system for data storage, processing and updating became evident. In 2005-2007, thanks to financial assistance from the Development and Reform Fund of Georgia and UNDP, the MoC launched a project for creation of a unified information system in the field of cultural heritage. The model of the system was elaborated, integrating the different information on cultural heritage (protected zones, immovable and movable listed properties, museum-reserves, etc) and allowing external links to similar systems of different related institutions, e.g. the State Customs Office. The integrated information system represents one of the key instruments for management and planning in the field of cultural heritage. Currently it is being tested and revised to make it efficient in practice.

Significant shifts in the development of new technologies started in 2014; the Georgian ***Innovation and Technology Agency*** was established at the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. www.qita.gov.ge

The mission of the Georgian ***Innovation and Technology Agency*** is to create an ecosystem required for the development of innovations and technologies in Georgia; to promote the knowledge and innovation commercialization; to encourage the use of innovations and technologies in all fields of the economy; to create the environment for the growth of innovations and high-tech products export and to develop high-speed internet nationwide.

Agency's priorities:

- Infrastructure for innovations (research and technology park, industrial innovations laboratories, iLab, etc.)
- Commercialization of innovations and technologies
- High-speed internet for everyone
- Funding access (mini-grants, innovation vouchers)
- Development of competitiveness (ToT, etc.)
- Legislative framework to develop an innovative ecosystem

The first research and technology park and a network of innovation laboratories were created

In 2014, on the basis of three universities jointly collaborating with the private applicable sector, 3 laboratories were created to conduct in teaching:

- Programming for mobile platforms
- Creating computer games
- Computer graphics and visual effects

All labs were equipped with modern techniques. Laboratory staff has undergone additional training, laboratories will be involved in skills competitions organized by the Agency and in creating start-up companies.

The web and mobile applications innovations laboratory 'Geolab' was created.

The Agency works both with private and educational sectors to continue the development of innovation laboratories on the basis of other educational institutions.

For the development of competitiveness the following has been planned:

- ToT - Training of trainers in high-tech areas for practice-oriented teaching

- Programming/ICT
- Micro-electronics and robotics
- Computer graphics, 3D modeling
- Developing computer games
- Innovative entrepreneurship
- Competitiveness of private companies
- Raising science skills for promoting the commercialization of innovations
- Development of open access ways of aiding remote learning

The purpose of the formation of applied learning and of 'export-oriented' programming development centers is to have 40.000 specialists in the ICT, high-tech and innovations spheres by 2020.

Institutional support for innovative ecosystem is provided by:

- **The Board of Research and Innovations of Georgia** (founded on 03/02/2015. It represents a consultative body to the Government of Georgia, designed to support the development of science, research and innovations).
- **Strategy "Innovative Georgia 2020"**, 2016
<https://idfi.ge/public/upload/IDFI/2020/Qashibadze2.pdf>
- **Law of Georgia on Innovations**, adopted 22nd of June 2016, N5501-IIIs (*SEE Chapter 5.1.10 Other Areas of General Legislation*).

Computerization:

- To develop the use of internet and computer skills for regional populations, the Agency launches the project "Computer for Everyone".
- Providing computers to students and young people in regions at a discounted price.
- The project is implemented together with the company Intel.

The strategic areas of the Culture Strategy 2025, approved in 2016, include "Cultural Infrastructure and New Technologies":

"Chapter II: Strategic Goals

Cultural Infrastructure and New Technologies

Goal: The infrastructure of culture is developed, necessary professional environment is provided and the application of new technologies is ensured.

5.2 Objective: The development and effective application of new technologies, the integration of culture into the digital realm contributes to the strengthening of the cultural sector, intensification of creative processes, creation of innovative products and services.

Tasks:

- Support the establishment, development and effective application of new technologies and innovation in the cultural sector by using a variety of measures, (e.g. elaboration of appropriate training programmes in digital marketing and audience development, new technologies; also by offering incentive mechanisms, awareness-raising campaigns, etc.);
- Actively support efforts directed towards the computerisation and internet connectivity of cultural establishments and organisations in order to integrate the sector into the digital world and ensure its development according to the contemporary standards;
- Support the establishment of the ways for electronic correspondence and exchange of documentation in order to realise effective governance of the cultural sector, mitigate negative impact on the natural environment (e.g. reduce the demand on paper and etc.);
- In accordance with the principles of e-governance, provide support for public organisations of culture to integrate them into the internet, set-up effective web representation and introduce electronic services in order to improve

public access to culture and increase the society's engagement, ensure that information and knowledge is shared and communication is more efficient;

- Support the creation of digital products and services (e.g.: programmes, applications, etc.) by the institutions of the cultural sector, which shall in return lead to the development of innovative and user-friendly services;
- Actively uphold information/knowledge sharing among various sectors concerning the new technologies and innovations, enhance inter-sectoral communication, which shall lead to new opportunities for cultural organisations, raise the administrative efficiency and effectiveness, reduce costs, simplify bureaucratic procedures, etc.;
- Actively support the digitalisation processes in order to accomplish the tasks of protecting, maintaining and promoting the national culture and of raising the economic potential of the cultural sector;
- Support specialists of the new technologies in creating new media art (e.g. digital art, video games, computer animation, etc.) and in introducing elements of culture in other types of digital products (e.g. mobile applications, computer software, etc.).

In accordance with the Culture Strategy 2025 priority "Improvement of Cultural Governance" the following was created in 2017:

- Georgian Cultural Heritage Data Management, Geoinformation System and GIS Portal <http://memkvadreoba.gov.ge/>
- Information system of Georgian museums collections www.egmc.gov.ge

4.3 Other relevant issues and debates

After the parliamentary elections in 2012, one of the most debated issues has been a paradigmatic approach of the reform in the sphere of culture. The problem in Georgian cultural policy is not having a paradigmatic approach to culture in whole or in part, but understanding the essence of a "cultural" component of the cultural good and its significance in a long-term strategy.

Moreover, culture is becoming increasingly important as a tool of the political and economic power of the elite: In Georgian cultural policy a significant, fast emerging, class of political and financial elites is implanting the ideology of a "consumption" policy. This naturally reflects on cultural consumption and participation. In Georgia cultural consumption is a field for further manipulation of a well-established political PR system. The best illustration of this is the architecture of the "new" Georgia beginning from the presidential palace to the cultural complex on Rike in Tbilisi, as well as the pseudo-rehabilitation projects such as the Rabat complex in Akhaltsikhe. In the long term, the implementation of such a policy through manipulating consumption in order to ease the government will result in an even more rapid decline in public taste.

Cultural consumption is differentiated

Consumption is changing at the expense of diversification and stratification of society; an increase in forming in the gap between the elite and the majority of the population which stays near the poverty line. However, the emergence of a middle class slowly occurs, albeit at the expense of the bureaucracy.

Over the past 20 years (1990 to 2010), no surveys and other systematic studies have been conducted in the culture area; there are no accurate data on culture from the State Department of Statistics. However, we can say that there is an empirically revealed correlation between income level, education level and intensity of cultural consumption.

It is obvious that the public, the majority of which is near the poverty line, cannot participate to the full extent in the process of creation and consumption of the cultural product; for the same reason it is impossible for the majority of the public to provide adequate care for the privately-owned cultural heritage that damages the common cultural landscape and heritage. All these factors provoke impunity for political and economic elites, which have lobbied for and implemented such projects as "The New Life of Old Tbilisi", which resulted in the unqualified reconstruction and restoration of historic districts and was a futile waste of budgetary funds.

Cultural consumption is also differentiated according to the place of residence: the lowest traditionally remains in the countryside, where the cultural infrastructure is poorly developed. Therefore, the general political task of ensuring equal access to culture and levelling participation in cultural life remains relevant throughout the country. The tools for solving this problem may be the Internet. The level of cultural consumption and nature of participation vary under the effect of such factors as, for example, the economic crisis, under which the free services provided by public institutions become more attractive. "Domestic consumption of culture" is also growing (Use of the Internet and the option of downloading, often illegally, various cultural and artistic content).

After the parliamentary elections in October 2012 and the change of power, the decentralisation models were considered.

15 months after the elections (1.10.2012-1.03.2014) the new government declared the principles of decentralisation as fixed in the ***Strategy of Decentralisation and Self-government*** for 2013-2014 created by the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia.

The cultural policy of the cohabitation period is homogeneous: the structural changes have not yet been carried out; only the top officials of the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia and several major institutions have been replaced. The forms and the funding rate for culture remained the same. The conceptual rethinking of the legislative sphere and solving of tactical problems in the field of cultural heritage is in process. The pressing problems have been filtering and ranking through the thematic committees established under the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia. The round tables - sectorial and thematic - aimed at the identification of the needs and concerns of different fields of the Culture are being carried out:

Identification of the problem (2013-14)

- the openness of public cultural policy does not always meet European standards;
- the decision-making system and indicators are not always clear;
- underdevelopment of civil society: the lack of responsibility and involvement in the protection of cultural heritage, urban planning matters, etc.
- the legislation remains unbalanced:
 - The primary issues are to improve the legislative framework in the field of cultural heritage, especially in the context of decentralisation and self-government reform, and the Concordat.
 - Over the past 15 years, the representatives of culture have required the introduction of the *Sponsorship Law* as a means of diversification of the financing of culture and legislative improvements for the delimitation of powers and the protection of regional and municipal sectors of culture. The central government was quite sceptical about this idea.
 - After the parliamentary elections in 2012, one of the most debated issues of the legal reform in the sphere of culture has been the centralisation of management of theatrical structures. The *Law on Professional Theatres* was passed in 2013 which appears to be a hasty response to the *Law on State Theatres* of 2006.
 - The approach to art education is more careful. The general concept of the system legal reforms in the sphere of higher creative education – the basic principles of legislative initiative of the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia has been developed; in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science the work on the improvement of the *Higher Education Law* is in process.

Which methods are crucial for today?

Expert Methods: sectorial and thematic commissions

The procedure for the election of the sectorial committees and thematic working groups varies, and is mainly based on the need for system analysis, however, the solving of transient issues, dichotomy and politicisation at the various levels of government do not contribute to long-term strategic planning. However, one example of institutional development is the procedure for creating the Advisory Board for the election of candidates for the post of art directors of the professional theatres; the charter and aims and objectives of the Advisory Board have been prescribed. Its composition includes 7

professional theatre critics appointed for a term of 4 years. The Board's working and membership principles have been developed:

- participants of the thematic working groups: the state and other stakeholders, expert communities – nongovernmental sector, the media; to a lesser extent - the private sector and local authorities;
- groups have been working in the permanent force majeure regime as the urgency of situation and multiple problems accumulated in this sphere evidence the weakness of the previous and current management, the lack of strategic managerial skills and knowledge;
- consultation with various sectors of culture in Georgia are conducted mainly through round tables and presentations;
- a work plan of each commission and thematic working group is different and consistent with the objectives of creating commissions.

Advisory Boards and Working Groups

- 14.12.2012 – working group on the study of documentation in the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and in the issues of the ongoing new developments in historical urban areas;
- 22.01.2013 - working group on the settlement of legal acts in the field of higher creative education;
- 25.02.2013 - advisory board to the Minister of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia on the protection of cultural heritage;
- 23.05.2013 - advisory board to the Minister of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia in the field of museums; and
- 12.07.2013 - the contest of nominations to the Advisory Board for the election of candidates for the post of art directors of public professional theatres.

Key Learning Points

In 2012-2013 the evaluation of the model of Georgian cultural policy did not create the prerequisites/guarantees for greater openness of governmental structures and the relevance of their decisions.

The quality of the information transparency and e-governance (the e-accessibility and technical efficiency) of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia in 2016-2017 was evaluated positively and was named one of the best among Georgian public institutions.

The Culture Strategy 2025, approved in 2016, has established the research-based governance that contributes to the development of management by expert methods.

The main problems and challenges that were identified during the development of the Culture Strategy 2025:

- Information deficit on the role of culture and its economic potential;
- Education programs flaws - culture and creativity are inadequately reflected in the education stages;
- Culture is not equally available to all members of the community. Cultural diversity is not adequately protected and developed;
- Culture and creativity are not integrated into the policies of other fields and there is no great awareness of its contribution;
- There are no relevant social guarantees for cultural workers and their remuneration is low;
- Cultural infrastructure and its material-technical base are underdeveloped;
- Budgetary funding of culture is poor and alternative sources of funding are not developed;
- Cultural governance at central or municipal levels are to be improved;
- Surveys and statistical data are scarce;
- The legislative base and mechanisms for promoting integration into the international space of culture are to be improved

Source: Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection

These challenges have shown the need for intensive use of local and international expert experiences. Consequently, the strategic area "Improvement of Cultural Governance" of the Culture Strategy 2025`, implies active implementation research, including internationally.

Within the framework of the Eastern Partnership's program "Culture and Creativity", research was conducted and recommendations were developed:

- Development of Performing Art Sector (Theater) in Georgia
- Development of Creative Industries in Georgia
- UNESCO's Indicators for Development – Georgia's Report.

One of the priorities of the Strategy was to create a new model of culture financing. In 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection formulated the idea of a financial sustainability package, which includes the following:

- Exemption of real assets used in the creative, artistic and scientific research activities (theater, center, museum, etc.) from property tax;
- Exemption of the activities implemented in the cultural field under the state order from the value added tax;
- Exemption of royalties, cash and other awards paid by the state from income tax;
- Charity Law and voluntary 1% initiative;
- Drafting the law on state pensions, which means the possibility of retaining pensions for persons employed in artistic organizations;
- Transferring a part of lotteries' revenues to the cultural sphere.

This package was however not realized, as of January 2018.

5. Main legal provisions in the cultural field

5.1 General legislation

5.1.1 Constitution

On 15 October 2010, the new *Constitution of Georgia* was adopted, which changes the system from a presidential state model to a mixed parliamentary-presidential model.

Georgia is a democratic republic where the rights and freedoms of individuals are of the highest value.

The *Constitution* of Georgia is a superior law and all other laws and acts of legislation shall comply with it. The following *Articles of the Constitution* refer to cultural issues:

According to *Article 23*, the Constitution of Georgia shall ensure the inviolability of intellectual property and creative freedom. Interference in creative activity or censorship in the creative sphere is not permissible. Placing a prohibition on the product of a creative work or on its distribution shall not be permissible, unless it violates the legal rights of others.

According to *Article 34*, "The state shall maintain the development of culture, unrestricted participation of citizens in cultural life, expression and enrichment of cultural origins, recognition of national and generic values and a deepening of international cultural relations. Each citizen of Georgia shall be obliged to protect and preserve the cultural heritage. The state shall protect cultural heritage by law."

According to *Article 38*, citizens of Georgia are equal in social, economic, cultural and political life regardless of national, ethnic, religious or linguistic origin. The freedom of citizens to use freely their native language and to develop their culture is safeguarded.

5.1.2 Division of jurisdiction

Division of jurisdiction on cultural issues between national / federal and various regional / provincial, local / municipal levels of government is referred to in various laws and is regulated by the following laws to a different extent:

- the *Law on Culture* (1997) is of a declarative nature and specifies the general responsibility of the state in the sphere of culture;
- the legislation on *Public Law* which determines the legal status, rules of activity and terms of reference of state establishments at various levels:
 - *The Law on the Structure, Authority and Rules of Activity of the Government of Georgia* (2004). This Law determines the structure and authority in the executive branch of power. The government of Georgia ensures the executive power through the branch ministries and subordinate departments (namely, through the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection and the subordinate State Department of Sports and State Department on Youth Affairs).
 - *The Law on the Public Service* (1997). This Law determines the authority and responsibility of public services, rights and duties of officials, public servants *at all levels of power*. (The term "public service" defines the services of state, local administration and self-government, i.e. public establishments).
 - *The Law on Legal Entities under Public Law* (1999). Under this Law, the legal and organisational status of the establishments that are financed by the state budget are determined (see ➡ [chapter 3.2](#)).
 - *The Law on Local Administration and Self-Government* (1997). Under this Law local authorities shall be responsible for activity in the sphere of culture in the regions (see ➡ [chapter 3.2](#)).
 - *The Law on the Budgetary System* (2004, amended 2006). This Law determines the principles of formation of the budgetary system and regulates the drafting of the budget. Consequently, budgetary relations and responsibility of the central authority, authorities of autonomous republics and local authorities are

regulated. *Article 13 of the Law on the Budgetary System* establishes that the reserve funds of the President of Georgia and government of Georgia shall be assigned for such extraordinary events of national importance as natural disasters and for financing of other unforeseen state expenses.

- *The Law on the State Budget of Georgia (annual)*. The Law distributes the general financing of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection among the subordinate organisations, legal entities under public law and specific state programmes for culture, sports and youth affairs.

In addition to the laws above, the legal / juridical subsidiarity on culture is enforced by means of regulatory acts issued by the President and government (decrees, resolutions, and orders).

5.1.3 Allocation of public funds

Under Georgian legislation (*The Law on Culture, Article 29*) financing of the cultural sector shall be determined by the state budget:

- the state safeguards the protection and development of culture by allocating finance under the state programme; and
- cultural activity determined by the state programme is financed from the state budget in compliance with the Constitution and the *Law on the Budgetary System* and other acts of legislation.

Under the *Law on the State Budget of Georgia for 2005*, a total amount of 32 554 400 GEL was allocated to the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection, with culture receiving 23 492 500 GEL of this fund. These funds are dispensed among the subordinate organisations, legal entities under public law and specific state programmes for culture, cultural heritage, sports and youth affairs. Specific programmes are designed for the various spheres of culture. In 2005, local authorities allocated 41 323 200 GEL for culture. Archives (273 900 GEL from the budget of the Ministry of Justice); National Libraries (1 021 800 GEL from the budget of the Parliament of Georgia); Chamber of Books (223 900 GEL direct financing from the state budget); TV and Radio (16 500 000 GEL direct financing from the state budget). In total the state spent 82 835 300 GEL on culture in 2005 (see ➡ [chapter 6.2.3](#)); 23 492 500 GEL for the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection. No specified data for 2006 are available.

Under the *Law on the State Budget of Georgia for 2007*, 77 113 691 GEL was allocated to the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection, with culture receiving 41 157 246 GEL (53.37%) of this fund. Specific programmes are designed for the various spheres of culture. In 2007, local authorities allocated 35 388 800 GEL (31.5%) for culture. Archives (1 501 000 GEL from the budget of the Ministry of Justice); National Libraries (3 908 300 GEL from the budget of the Parliament of Georgia); TV and Radio (17 400 000 GEL direct financing from the state budget). In total, the state spent 99 355 346 GEL on culture in 2007 (see ➡ [chapter 6.2.3](#)), including 41 157 246 GEL for the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection.

Under the *Law on the State Budget of Georgia for 2008*, 77 843 900 GEL was allocated to the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection. Other Ministries provide support for culture related sectors such as: archives (1 501 000 GEL from the budget of the Ministry of Justice); national libraries (5 309 000 GEL from the budget of the Parliament of Georgia); TV and Radio (20 676 000 GEL direct financing from the state budget).

In addition to these programmes, the state budget contains reserve funds for the Georgian President and Parliament. The funds from these reserves are held for emergencies, such as disasters or for payment of unforeseen state liabilities. The reserve funds are dispensed via the relevant ministries. In rare cases, funds from the reserves are allocated to culture (see ➡ [chapter 3.4](#)).

In compliance with *Article 14 of the Tax Code*, similar reserve funds are created in the local budgets of the autonomous republics.

Under the *Law on Culture* the state supports donations and sponsorship of private individuals and legal entities in the sphere of culture using tax incentives and other privileges established by Georgian legislation. However, *Article 14* is not supported by adequate definitions in the *Tax Code* or other acts of legislation.

5.1.4 Social security frameworks

In Georgia, there is no definite legislation which regulates social security provision for the cultural sector, although various kinds of security are provided under other legislation.

Under the *Law on Art Workers and Art Unions, Article 8, paragraph 2*, social security and pension provision for artists shall be implemented under the relevant acts of legislation.

The *Law on Social Security for Researchers / Scientists* regulates the creation of safeguards and conditions for the work of scientists. While culture is not mentioned specifically in the legislation, it is applicable to some cultural workers.

General unemployment in Georgia is a major issue for the government to tackle and therefore the cultural sector has not yet been singled out for specific development.

See also comparative information provided in the Compendium "Themes!" section under "[Status of Artists](#)".

5.1.5 Tax laws

There are few legal incentives for investment in culture in Georgia. This sphere is regulated by general legislation. The *Tax Code* determines some tax privileges, such as exempting the following areas from tax payments: the sale and printing of tickets for theatre and circus performances, classical music concerts and museums; the import of scientific and creative books and fiction, books and magazines written by citizens of Georgia, as well as the import of Georgian classics published abroad; and services relating to the sale of, import, distribution, delivery and printing of periodicals and fiction.

There are no special tax rules or exemptions for creative individuals.

Construction of temples and churches as charities are tax exempt in compliance with *Article 172 of the Tax Code*. This category of buildings benefits more from the legislation than the restoration of cultural heritage for which the law was intended.

Under the *Tax Code of Georgia*, restoration and reconstruction work on monuments included in the UNESCO world heritage list is exempted from VAT (18%).

In spite of long debates and drafted bills, the *Law on Donations and Sponsorship* has not been adopted.

To promote the film industry, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia initiated an amendment to the *Tax Code of Georgia* which will mean that producers that obtain funding from the National Film Centre will be charged income tax only after the release of a film. Under the previous regulation, the funds allocated from the state budget were charged tax before the release of a film, which hindered film producers in their use of the funds. Film producers have been also authorised to charge the 100% depreciation on the released film as an intangible asset. *Amendments to the Tax Code* came into effect on 1 January 2015 in the form of additions to paragraphs 65, 66, 67 of Article 309 (see ➡ [chapter 5](#)).

5.1.6 Labour laws

There is no definite legislation which regulates labour relations in the sphere of culture.

The new **Labour Code of Georgia** was adopted on 25 May 2006. It abolished the **Law on Collective Agreements and Engagements**, which was used sometimes in labour relations with creative workers.

The new **Labour Code of Georgia** supports the protection of fundamental human rights, fair remuneration, and labour safety standards.

In addition to this Code, labour issues are regulated by the **Law on Public Service** (see [⇒ chapter 5.1.2](#)), which regulates the labour relations of public servants (including in the sphere of culture).

Under the **Law on Art Workers and Art Unions, Article 8, paragraph 1**, an art worker may work in a freelance capacity, be directly employed or work under another type of contract. However, today this law is idle.

In Georgia, there is a trade union for workers in the cultural sector but there is no trend of negotiations on agreements and contracts between employers and trade unions on working conditions.

The average monthly salary of art workers is extremely poor and is equal to 84.8 GEL, on average. This sum is 15.6 % less than the salary of teachers and doctors (100 GEL on average) and is 95 % less than the salary of judges (equivalent to 1 000 USD in the national currency).

Table 7: Monthly salary of artists in Georgia, by gender, 2004

Salary in GEL			
	Women	Men	Average wage
Culture, entertainment, recreation	69.8	110.4	84.8

Source: State Department for Statistics

Further statistical data on the cultural sector is not available.

After the November crisis of 2007 and substitution of the Prime Minister, the government promised to raise the salary of museum workers and teachers (it should be noted that the monthly salary of custodians of regional museums is very small – 20 GEL (equivalent to 10 EUR).

See also comparative information provided in the Compendium "Themes!" section under "[Status of Artists](#)".

5.1.7 Copyright provisions

Georgia is a party to the international agreements on the protection of intellectual property – the Paris and Berne Conventions.

In Georgian legislation, relations on copyright in the sphere of intellectual property and moral rights relating to the creation of a scientific, literary and art work are regulated by the **Law on Copyright and Related Rights (1999)**. Copyright – the integral / essential right of work / art is the homogenous right - which includes the moral rights, economic rights and related rights - of the author. This Law regulates the relations allied to the copyright of performers, phonogram and videogram makers, broadcasting and database makers. State policy in the protection of copyright and related rights is implemented and safeguarded by the National Centre for Intellectual Property, SAKPATENTI.

Copyright accrued within the creation of scientific, literary and art works is safeguarded under the Law. In relation to royalties, the state has established the following guidelines: reproduction of creative products is allowed where they have been legally published or are regarded as common property due to public distribution / awareness; the sum of royalties

and terms of payment shall be established under the law, on the one side, and under the contract between the parties, on the other side. In circumstances where the royalty rights are unclear, either party can request a decision from SAKPATENTI (This decision may be appealed within 2 months).

The legislation determines copyright relating to on-air broadcasting.

The **Law on Limiting Measures in Connection with Intellectual Property** adopted on 23 June 1999 does not mention "the owners and objects of related rights", although audio and videocassettes and CDs are the objects of related rights. Therefore, this Law loses its significance and is inefficient.

The legislative base in the sphere of copyright in Georgia is not well developed and there are often infringements of the existing laws. A number of reasons exist for violations of the legislation including: inadequate and weak infrastructure, mechanisms of protection and legislative base; a lack of culture managers and copyright specialists; and a low level of awareness of the legislation among the community and target groups.

Recently in Georgia the debates on moral rights have become more intensive as the concept of moral rights is often not understood by the authorities in relation to sculptors and architects in circumstances where their work is moved, remade or demolished within the context of reconstruction and renovation of public spaces related to the new investment policy (see [↗ chapter 7.1](#))

5.1.8 Data protection laws

The provisions on data protection in Georgia are available within the **Law on Copyright and Related Rights** (see [↗ chapter 5.1.7](#)). The Law establishes the rights of authors and owners of software and databases, enables the authorised users of original databases or their copies to make necessary changes for the normal operation of the customers' hardware without the consent of the author or a person who owns the copyright on the software and databases.

The **Law on Telecommunications (2005)** establishes the legal and economic principles for the operation of the electronic communication networks and resources all over Georgia. The Law establishes the principles of creation and regulation of a competitive environment in this sphere. The National Communications Commission of Georgia is the regulatory authority in relation to the **Law on Telecommunications (2005)**, **Law on Broadcasting (2004)**, and **Law on Independent National Regulatory Authorities (09.13.2002)**. The terms of reference of the Commission covers the drafting and adoption of relevant statutory acts.

However, data protection is recognised as a major issue in Georgia. Some efforts to resolve problems in this area were made by the State Department on Information Provision which has drafted the **Bill on E-documents, E-signatures, E-agreements and E-commerce**. This Bill is intended to regulate the mechanisms for the production activity of electronic facilities.

5.1.9 Language laws

- **Law on Official Language** - 22/07/2015 / N 4084-RS /. The law enforces the constitutional status of the state language, establishes the legal basis for its use and protection, regulates legal relations of the functioning of state and non-state languages.

5.1.10 Other areas of general legislation

Law of Georgia on Innovations, adopted 22 June 2016, N5501-IIIs

"CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS. Article 1. Purpose and Scope of Law. 1. The purpose of this Law is to create and improve the ecosystem of national innovations necessary for socioeconomic development of Georgia, construction of economy based on the knowledge and innovations in the country, promotion of launching the technologies created in

other countries in Georgia, promoting introduction and export the intellectual property and technology created in Georgia, the access to the advanced technology in all areas of science and business in order to increase competitiveness in the fields. 2. This Law applies to the entities of innovative activities, infrastructure supporting innovative activities, funding innovative activities and commercialization of innovations. ''

5.2 Legislation on culture

The legislative structure of the cultural sector in Georgia includes the following:

- many laws and acts of legislation passed by the Parliament;
- resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Georgia;
- President's decrees, edicts, decisions and instructions of respective ministries and governmental agencies; and
- decisions of local authorities.

The legislation on culture is continually reorganised, revised and refreshed, which requires a great number of new changes to the laws and instructions.

Many laws are of a declarative nature, are ineffective and regularly violated. Some laws within the cultural sphere conflict with the fundamental laws in other socio-economic sectors. The established norms and conditions are not often observed because there is no clear responsibility and distribution of powers at different levels of authority (including inter-ministerially). In some fields of the cultural sector, especially in the culture industries, no juridical / legal base exists.

The laws determining the structures of cultural policy or declaration of principles

In order to guarantee the constitutional principles, the following laws in the cultural sector have been adopted:

The Law on Culture (1997) is guided by the Constitution and considers the centuries-old cultural tradition and world experience in the cultural sphere. The law is the legislative base for development of culture and protection and maintenance of cultural values in Georgia. Cultural heritage is defined as the main state priority in the ***Law on Culture***.

The aim of the ***Law on Culture*** is to protect the rights of citizens in the sphere of culture; to determine legislative norms and principles for the use of cultural values and results of creative work; to determine the responsibility of individuals and legal entities for the maintenance and protection of cultural values; to ensure non-interference of the state in the creative process and free cultural activity of Georgian citizens; to promote involvement of Georgian culture into the universal system of cultural processes and to carry out international obligations undertaken by the state.

According to the ***Constitution***, this Law reinforces the right of an individual to carry out cultural activities and this is the integral and inviolable right of all citizens. All citizens of Georgia are entitled to carry out free creative and cultural work according to his / her interests and abilities.

The legislation determines a creative worker as an author, reproducer or interpreter of cultural values in the development of intellectual and creative process (see ➡ [chapter 4.2.3](#)).

List of existing cultural legislation

<i>Title of the act</i>	<i>Year of adoption</i>	
<i>Laws setting out cultural policy frameworks or declarations of principle</i>		
<i>Law on Culture</i>	12.06.1997.N 751 - II ႁ (last amendment 2007) determines legal principles, regulates social relations associated with creation, use, distribution and	

	preservation of cultural heritage and cultural values and providing access to them
Laws establishing the scope, operation(s), governing structure(s) and procedures for funding cultural institutions	
<i>Law on Cultural Heritage</i>	08.05.2007./N 4708 – I ₆ /, regulates legal, organisational and economic relations in the sphere of preservation of cultural heritage.
<i>Law on Architectural Activity</i>	14.04.1998 ./ 1335–II ₆ / establishes legal norms of activities in the sphere of Architecture and regulates social relations in the field
<i>Law on State Supervision of Architectural and Construction Activity</i>	14.11.1997 / N1105–Is / (last amended in 2009) This law regulates the state supervision of architectural and construction activity, the functions and rights of the supervisory authorities thereof, responsibility of entrepreneurial entities in this sphere.
<i>Concerning Spatial Organisation and City Construction Basis</i>	02.06.2005/1506–I ₆ / (last amendment 2011) This law establishes the subject, principles, priorities, objectives and aims of spatial organisation and city construction; the forms and role of spatial-territorial planning and planning documents in development on the territory of Georgia.
<i>Law on Design</i>	04.05. 2010 /3030–Is/ Pursuant to the Constitution of Georgia this law recognises the inviolability of the right of ownership of intellectual property; it regulates the relations connected with creation, registration, use, legal protection of design and the rights thereof. The law is extended to the design which is registered under the procedure established by the law in the industrial property register by the National Centre for Intellectual Property SAKPATENTI or to which the international registration is extended.
<i>Law on Museums</i>	22.06.2001. N 990 - II ₆ (last amendment 2007), regulates social relations in the sphere of museum activities
<i>Law on Public Theatres</i>	09.06.2006. N 3288 – I, regulates legal, organisational and economic relations in the sphere of Public Theatres, defines the legal status of theatres, their financing and how they are established
<i>Law on State Support to National Cinematography</i>	05.12.2000. /N655- I ₆ / establishes legal norms of activities in the sphere of cinematography and regulates social relations in the field of production, distribution of films.
<i>Law on Creative Workers and Creative Unions</i>	08.06.1999./ 2059–II ₆ / last amendment 2011), regulates relations between artists' unions and the government.
<i>Law on Library Management</i>	11.06.1996./N 267 - II ₆ /, defines the status of libraries, legal and organisation principles of activities of libraries
<i>Law on the Import and Export of Cultural Goods</i>	22.06.2001./N 985 - II ₆ / (last amendment 2007), regulates development of international co-operation in the field of culture
<i>Law on Copyright and Related Rights</i>	22.06.1999./ 2112–II ₆ / (last amendment 2007), regulates norms of copyright and joint copyrights, fulfilment of international obligations; protects personal non-property and property rights of authors and their assignees
<i>Law on Limitary Measures in Connection with Intellectual Property</i>	22.06.1999. /2159–II ₆ / (last amendment 2010) The law establishes the rule of application of the special measures on the state boundary of Georgia in case of imports or exports; to products manufactured with violation of the copyright, or the rights on the product name or geographical specification. It is based on the provisions regarding special measures on the state boundary of the

	agreement on the aspects of the intellectual property related to the trade concluded in the framework of the world Trade Organisation
Law On National Archive Fund and National Archive	29.12. 2006/4205-rs/ (last amendment 2011), regulates relations in the field of accounting, preservation and use of the Archive Fund and other main issues related to archive science.
<i>Law on Broadcasting</i>	23.12.2004, /780-სს/(last amendment 2011) determines the obligations of public broadcasting to protect the public interest in the sphere of news, public and political, educational, cultural and sport programmes; determines the obligations of public broadcasting to protect the public interest in the sphere of news, public and political, educational, cultural and sport programmes. The law subject to the freedom of word and opinion and free entrepreneurship determines the rule of operation of broadcasting, the rule of creation and function of the independent regulatory authority in the sphere of broadcasting, the terms and conditions of regulation of activity, rules and procedures of licensing in this sphere.
<i>Law on Telecommunications</i>	2005
<i>Law on Electronic Communications</i>	02.06.2005/1514-Il/(last amendment 2011) The law establishes the legal and economic basics of activity with electronic communication networks and facilities on the territory of Georgia, the principles of formation and regulation of the competitive environment in this sphere, the functions of the independent national regulatory authority (Georgian National Communication Commission), the rights and duties of natural persons and legal entities during ownership of electronic communication networks and facilities, their operation and service provision.
<i>Concordat- Constitutional Agreement between the State and the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia</i>	2002, regulates relations between the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia and the government.
Laws providing financing	
<i>Law on the Budgetary System</i>	29.12.2004, defines allocation of public funds for culture between different levels of government
<i>Law on the State Budget of Georgia</i>	2005
<i>The Tax Code</i>	0917.09.2010 /N3591-II/
The public laws that determine the legal status, rules of activity and terms of reference of the state institutions of various levels	
<i>Law on Structure, Authority and Procedures of the Government of Georgia</i>	11.02.2004./N3277-II/ (last amendment 2011)
<i>Law on Public Service</i>	31.10. 1997/ N 1022 – Is /(last amended in 2011) The law establishes the legal basics of public service organisations in Georgia, regulates the relations connected with the performance of public service, determines the legal status of the service
<i>Law on Legal Entities under Public Law</i>	28.05.1999./N 2052 - Ibis/ (last amended in 2011). The law establishes the rule of creation, activity and organisation of legal persons of public law
<i>The Organic Law on Self Government</i>	16.12.2005/2304-rs/ (last amended in 2011). The law in pursuance with paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the Constitution of Georgia and the European Charter On Local Self-government determines the legal, economic and financial basics of implementation of local self-government, state guarantees thereof, the rule

	of creation of local self-government bodies, their powers and relations with the state authorities.
<i>Law on Independent National Regulatory Authorities</i>	13.09. 2002 /N1666-Is (last amended in 2011). The purpose of this law is to create the stable legal basis and perfect institutional environment for the sustainable operation of the national regulatory authorities in order to provide in the various spheres of the economy the balancing of interests of license holders and consumers, effective pricing and providing services and goods. The law establishes: the independence of independent regulatory authorities operating in Georgia from any political pressure, inappropriate influences and illegitimate interference of state authorities or other officials as well as from any other actions which may infringe their independence; the power of implementation of the perfect regulation of the concrete sphere; responsibility for ensuring the transparency and reliability of decision-making procedures.
Others	
<i>Law on Official Language</i>	22/07/2015 / N 4084-RS / The law enforces the constitutional status of the state language, establishes the legal basis for its use and protection, regulates legal relations of the functioning of state and non-state languages.
Law of Georgia on Innovations	22 /06/ 2016, N5501-IIIs " CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS. Article 1. Purpose and Scope of Law. 1. The purpose of this Law is to create and improve the ecosystem of national innovations necessary for socioeconomic development of Georgia, construction of economy based on the knowledge and innovations in the country, promotion of launching the technologies created in other countries in Georgia, promoting introduction and export the intellectual property and technology created in Georgia, the access to the advanced technology in all areas of science and business in order to increase competitiveness in the fields. 2. This Law applies to the entities of innovative activities, infrastructure supporting innovative activities, funding innovative activities and commercialization of innovations.' "

5.3 Sector specific legislation

5.3.1 Visual and applied arts

Information is currently not available

5.3.2 Performing arts and music

The **Law on Public Theatres** (adopted in the first reading at the Parliamentary Committee in 2005) was approved and signed by the President on June 9, 2006.

The purpose of the Law is to support the activity of theatres and theatre organisations, to promote national dramatic art, to protect the literary language by means of the art of theatre, to revive and develop traditions, to propagate universal human ideals and to integrate Georgian theatre art into the world cultural space. The Law regulates the legal, social, economic and financial relations regarding the creation, operation and re-organisation-liquidation of professional and amateur organisations engaged in theatre activity and determines the rights and obligations of natural and legal entities engaged in this sphere.

The Law provides a new mechanism for setting up a public theatre and defines its organisational and legal status. All theatres financed from central and local budgets shall be founded as legal entities under public law by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection under its own initiative or on the recommendation of local governments. In the Abkhazia and Ajaria autonomous republics, the respective governmental institutions can recommend new theatres under their own initiative and / or on the recommendation of bodies of local administration in the territories.

The right to establish a municipal theatre under the initiative of bodies of local administration and self-government will be provided in a new Law, to comply with the **Law on Legal Entities under the Public Law**.

The state is not permitted to interfere in or control the creative process in theatres. However, the **Law on Public Theatres** provides for the centralisation of the management of theatre structures through concentration of responsibilities in a theatre director (supervisor / administrator). The theatre directors are solely accountable to the state authority for the general control of theatres, including administrative, economic, routine and financial control. The position of "art director" has lost its responsibilities as the legislation lacks the levers supporting and ensuring decision-making in the creative sphere. This provision has produced a discrepancy in the distribution of responsibilities between the director and art director and infringes the rights of the latter.

The **Law on Public Theatres** does not provide a clear definition of a theatre which allows the state to avoid responsibility for supporting non-public theatres in Georgia.

The new **Law on Public Theatres** does not extend to any private theatres such as those which are limited companies, non-governmental theatres (NGOs), theatres of mixed type and amateur theatres, which can be founded in compliance with the **Civil Code of Georgia** and the **Law on Entrepreneurs**.

The **Law on Professional Theatres** was passed in 2013, which appears to be a hasty response to the **Law on State Theatres of 2006**. The new **Law on Professional Theatres** excessively strengthens the powers of the art director, who will undertake both the creative duties and unreasonably extensive administrative, business, economic, and financial obligations that will result in irreversible management and staff problems in the future.

5.3.3 Cultural heritage

Cultural heritage in Georgia is regulated by the **Cultural Heritage Law** which was adopted on 27 June 2007. The purpose of this Law is to protect the cultural heritage of Georgia and to provide regulations in this sphere. Georgia is also keen to

protect Georgian cultural heritage abroad. It transfers some powers of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection to municipal authorities. Questions concerning the status of immovable monuments of culture of Tbilisi are to be addressed by municipal authorities.

The **Cultural Heritage Law** (2007) defines the terms and general mechanisms that will protect the cultural heritage against any encroachment. Protection is provided to all immovable monuments, movable parts of immovable monuments, movable monuments as well as to the objects with monument signs and immovable monument protection zones in the whole territory of Georgia, irrespective of the form of ownership.

As compared with the old **Law on the Protection of Cultural Heritage (1999)**, the 2007 **Cultural Heritage Law** covers a wider range of activities, is more specific in determining the rights and obligations related to cultural heritage, and is more rigorous in the formulation of principles for establishment of monument status.

On 2 September 2005, the government of Georgia passed the Resolution on the Rules of the Issue of Permits for Execution of Works on Monuments of History and Culture and Archaeological Digs. Work carried out on monuments of history and culture is regulated at state level. The new revision of this Law is aimed at improving the application of this legislation.

The control of permits / requirements is provided through the **Law on State Control of Architecture and Construction Activity**. State supervision of compliance with the terms of permits / requirements in the heritage field is undertaken by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection.

As these heritage protection acts have not long been in place, it is difficult to assess their success, although the acts of legislation and regulatory norms on the issue were available before the Rose Revolution of November 2003. New statutory acts reinforced and strengthened delimitation of responsibilities regarding protection and control of the monuments of history and culture.

The **Law on Museums** was passed on 22 June 2001 and takes guidance from the **Law on Culture and the Law on the Protection of Cultural Heritage (25.06.1999)**; the aims and purposes of the Law are to determine the basic principles of museum activity and use of museums; to provide state guarantees for museum activity; and to develop administration and financing principles for the system of museums. The Law determines categories of museums, regulates non-state involvement in museum activity and determines the rights and obligations of legal and natural persons in the sphere of museum activities. In line with this Law, the Ministry of Culture has developed Instructions on Accounting and Protection of Museum Objects in Georgia. This document is not a statutory act, but a manual for protection and accounting and restoration of museum objects.

The **Law on Import-export of Cultural Objects** was adopted on 22 June 2001, to determine the universal rules for importing and exporting cultural objects.

One of the most disputable issues in the protection of cultural heritage is the relationship between the state and the Georgian Orthodox Church within the context of the concordat signed in 2000 (see ➡ [chapter 5.3.8](#)).

Although the process of forming a legislative base in the sphere of cultural heritage is almost completed, in reality the laws will be brought into line with international and European standards. The laws are of a declarative nature; there are some discrepancies both in the legislation regulating the sphere of cultural heritage and as compared with the general laws, e.g. contravention to the **Law on Legal Person under the Public Law** which in turn contradicts the **Law on Local Administration and Self-government** (see ➡ [chapter 3.2](#)).

After the adoption of the Concordat (with the church), the legislation regulating the heritage sector has suffered a legal vacuum as no laws and acts of legislation interpreting the principles determined in the Concordat and delimiting the rights on the property of the state and the church have been passed (see ➡ [chapter 5.3.8](#)).

The **Law on the National Backlog** regulates the activity of the National Archives.

Drafting of the Cultural Heritage Code is underway.

5.3.4 Literature and libraries

The ***Law on Library Management*** regulates the general issues of library organisations. It defines libraries as cultural-educational, scientific-informational institutions, whose main social function is to effectively and fully apply its funds and other library resources to benefit the users.

The universal library network includes public and non-public, local and departmental library networks. The library system covers the National Library, training libraries, public libraries, children's libraries, school libraries and special library networks.

The main library of the public network is the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia, and special libraries also operate in the republics of Abkhazia and Ajaria.

The public library network is established according to the territorial and departmental principles.

The lack of tax exemptions in the law prevents the development of private libraries. Instead, there are efforts to own the premises where the libraries are placed and thereby to stop their operation.

5.3.5 Architecture and spatial planning

Georgia is a country with rich architectural traditions which requires a well-balanced and stable legal base to support and develop this sector. The following laws are applicable:

- ***Law on Architectural Activity (1998);***
- ***Law on Cultural Heritage (2007);***
- ***Law on State Supervision of Architectural and Construction Activity(1997);***
- ***Law on Spatial Management and Urban Planning Principles(2005);***
- ***Law on Environment Protection(1996);***
- ***Law on State Control of Environment Protection (2005); and***
- ***Law on State Ecological Assessment (1996).***

The Law on Architectural Activity was passed on 14 April 1998 to create and develop an adequate, eco-friendly, aesthetic environment and to promote architectural art in Georgia.

Under the law, the following areas are subject to state assessment: architectural designs financed by central or local budgets, or budgets of autonomous republics and other territorial units; by the state reserve or special state funds; and by the state or by construction credit allocated under state guarantee.

The environmental assessment of architectural design is carried out in compliance with the ***Law on State Environmental Assessment.***

Together with the Architecture and Construction Inspection Agency, state supervision of the monuments of culture is undertaken by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection. The Law also allows participation in architecture and construction activity by foreign legal and natural persons equated to resident legal and natural persons.

The significant ***Law on Spatial Management and Urban Planning Principles***, passed on 2 June 2005, regulates the process of spatial management and urban planning in Georgia. As well as being responsible for private development, this Law regulates the process of accommodation, development of settlements and infrastructure in compliance with the requirements of protecting the cultural heritage and environment, and establishes in this sphere the rights and responsibility of governmental institutions and natural and legal persons.

In the cultural sector, environmental protection is regulated by the general legislation regardless of the field – by the **Law on Environment Protection and the Law on State Control of Environmental Protection**.

In spite of the state supervision which has been implemented in this sphere there are some violations of the Law. The main reasons for the violations are:

- historical areas are protected by a state protective zone but their regimes do not operate effectively;
- inadequacy of the **Laws on Protection of Cultural Heritage**(1999) and **on State Supervision of Architecture and Construction Activity** creates problems in the construction sphere and the sphere of protection of monuments of architecture, historic regions and cultural heritage; The problem existed before acceptance of the new **Law on Cultural Heritage** in 2007, which should improve the situation.
- unacceptable state of the legal urban planning documentation; and
- the difficult problems in administering the sphere.

5.3.6 Film, video and photography

The **Law on State Support for National Cinematography** was passed on 5 December 2000. As well as determining the legal mechanisms for state support to national cinematography, the Law establishes the status of a national film, the legislative base for financing its production and distribution, the legal status of a respective institution / organisation operating in the film sphere and outlines the basic principles of state support for film-making. These basic principles are expressed in creation of guarantees for creative activity and creative freedom, in protection of copyright and concerning integration of Georgian cinematography in the world film process etc. The Law takes into consideration the **Laws on Culture and on Protection of Copyright and Related Rights**.

5.3.7 Mass media

The **Law on Press and Other Mass Media** was passed on 10 August 1991 which declared freedom for the mass media. By this Law, the constitutional principles were reinforced through the concrete relationship of the press and other mass media with the public.

The **Law of Georgia on Broadcasting** was passed on 23 December 2004, which was drafted with the expert support of the EU. The law defines the rule of broadcasting, rules and functions of an independent regulatory body in the field of broadcasting, terms of regulation of activity in this field, licensing rules and procedures in accordance with the principles of freedom of speech and freedom of expression and free entrepreneurship. 2. The purpose of this Law is to formulate public broadcasting independent from state interference; to regulate the broadcasting activities in accordance with the principles of transparency, fairness and impartiality through an independent regulatory authority; to ensure the effective use of freedom of speech and opinion, stimulating competitive environment among broadcasters, equality and independence of license holders, effective use of frequencies.

This Law determines the obligations of public broadcasting to protect the public interest in the sphere of news, public and political, educational, cultural and sport programmes. Public broadcasters are also obliged by the Law to create some programmes that reflect the ethnic, cultural, language, religious, age and gender diversity of the population.

Provisions on protection of data are also available within the applicable **Law on Copyright and Related Rights (22/06/1999/2112-IIIs)** (see ➡ chapter 5.1.7), and **Law on Limiting Measures in Connection with Intellectual Property (23/06/1999/N2159-IIIs)**.

By **Law of Georgia on Freedom of Speech and Expression, (24/06/2004 / # 220)** the state recognizes and protects freedom of speech and expression as the invincible and supreme human values. During implementation of the authority, the people and the state are restricted by these rights and freedoms as directly applicable law.

The Georgian National Communication Commission (GNCC) operates under the *Law on **on Electronic Communications** (2005) (amendment -20.11.2013 # 1591)*, *Broadcasting (2004)*, *Independent National Regulatory Authorities (2002)*, and on *Independent Regulatory Commission (2005)*.

Law on Independent National Regulatory Authorities -13.09. 2002 /N1666-Is. The purpose of this law is to create the stable legal basis and perfect institutional environment for the sustainable operation of the national regulatory authorities in order to provide, in the various spheres of the economy, the balancing of interests of license holders and consumers, effective pricing and providing services and goods. The law establishes: protection of independent regulatory authorities operating in Georgia from any political pressure, inappropriate influences and illegitimate interference of state authorities or other officials as well as from any other actions which may infringe their independence; the authority of implementation of the perfect regulation of the specific sphere; responsibility for ensuring the transparency and reliability of decision-making procedures.

Law on Electronic Communications, 02.06.2005/1514-Ilv/ The law establishes the legal and economic basics of activity with electronic communication networks and facilities on the territory of Georgia, the principles of formation and regulation of the competitive environment in this sphere, the functions of the independent national regulatory authority (Georgian National Communication Commission), the rights and duties of natural persons and legal entities during ownership of electronic communication networks and facilities, their operation and service provision.

In compliance with the *Law on **on Electronic Communications***, the GNCC allocates licenses to companies engaged in telecommunications.

When the *Laws on **on Electronic Communications and on Broadcasting*** came into effect, the legal status of broadcasting companies radically changed.

Under the *Law on Broadcasting* three types of companies were recognised – public, community and private. The State Broadcasting Company was reorganised into a public television company and its status, content obligations, programme priorities and other issues were to be regulated by the *Law on Broadcasting* (see ➡ [chapter 2](#)).

The GNCC performs the function of monitoring the execution of the *Law on **Protection of Minors from Detrimental Effect***. The State Department for Youth Affairs is entitled to determine the criteria of the films released and the GNCC monitors the protection of minors' rights. The Commission also monitors compliance with the *Law on **Protection of Copyright and Related Rights*** in the broadcasting sector.

5.3.8 Other areas of culture specific legislation

Concordat

Subject to the Constitution of Georgia, the state recognises the historical role and independence from the state of the Georgian Apostolic Autocephalic Orthodox Church.

The Georgian Apostolic Autocephalic Orthodox Church had obtained the status of independence, the Autocephaly, since 488 and was deprived of it within the period when Georgia was within the Russian Empire (the independent status of the Georgian Orthodox Church was abrogated in 1811). It restored the Autocephaly on March 12, 1917. The complete rehabilitation of its rights took place in 1990 – in the Diptych of the World Orthodox Churches the Georgian Apostolic Orthodox Church holds the 6th place.

The relationship between the state and the church is specified in the constitutional agreement – the Concordat adopted on 14 October 2002.

Under this Concordat, the state recognises all Orthodox temples, monasteries (both open and closed), their sites and land where they are located, as the property of the Church.

The state also recognises, as the property of the Church, the ecclesiastic cultural objects kept in the National Museums, stocks and depositories, except for the objects which are kept in private collections. However, this principle does not comply with **Article 8, paragraph 2** of the **Concordat** which recognises the joint ownership of the state and the church to the ecclesiastic objects as part of a single national heritage. In spite of the legal discrepancy regarding this clause the state preserves a level of regulation and supervision over the ecclesiastic objects.

The **Concordat** outlines the obligations of the state and the church in respect of the joint trusteeship, protection and defence of the ecclesiastic cultural objects. Under the agreement with the church, the state shall establish the legal conditions of ecclesiastic objects kept in the museums and depositories, as well as the terms and conditions of the projects of restoration, conservation and maintenance of temples of cultural and historic importance.

The state also assigns the funds from the central budget for the needs of the Georgian Apostolic Autonomous Orthodox Church (1 290 100 GEL in 2005, 2 114 600 GEL in 2006, 3 395 000 GEL in 2007).

The Law on Occupied Territories (23 October 2008) defines the status of the territories occupied as a consequence of the military conflict with the Russian Federation. It defines the extraordinary legal regime of the occupied territories.

6. Financing of culture

6.1 Short overview

The Georgian national economy had developed at a quite quick rate until the first half of 2008. In 2006, economic growth increased by 9.4% and in 2007 by 12.3%. In the first half of 2008, economic growth increased by 9%, however, beginning from the second half of 2008, the Georgian economy began to move backwards because of the Russia-Georgia military conflict and the world economic crisis. The amount of direct foreign investments decreased as the pessimism of consumers and investors worldwide increased. Since October 2008, the turnover of enterprises in Georgia dropped and the tax revenues in the state budget reduced accordingly. This resulted in the economic recession in the country. The growth of the gross domestic product in 2008 was only 2.1%.

During the drafting of the budget for 2009, economic growth was forecasted at 2%, though within that year the effect of the world economic crisis on Georgia still continued and according to the forecast updated in the first half of the year, the growth of GDP was determined at -1.5% and, according to the final forecast in 2009, the Georgian economy actually dropped by -4%. This factor affected on the state budget and the tax revenues decreased by 600 million GEL. The consolidated budget deficit increased from 3% to 6%.

However, the total funds allocated in Georgia in the cultural sphere have been growing consistently. On one side, this is related to the economy, the growth of GDP, and on the other side, this is the result of the domestic and foreign cultural policy. The shift which took place in the policy after the Russian-Georgian military conflict helped to focus on the promotion of culture in Georgia which in turn has led to increased budgets in this field.

However, the budgetary data for any particular year is not comparable due to the method of collection and it is hard, therefore, to calculate the percentage of expenses allocated to culture in the total state expenditure http://www.mof.gov.ge/budget/by_year.

Culture in Georgia is financed by both the state and local budgets

Budgets and Expenditures: Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection

In **2010**, the budget of the newly reformed Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection amounted to – **77 025 000 GEL**. Unlike previous years, the total budget of the new Ministry was allocated to culture – **30 810 000 EUR** accordingly (1 EUR = 2.5 GEL).

In **2011**, the budget of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection amounted to **69 381 200 GEL**. The total budget of the new ministry allocated to culture was accordingly 30 165 740 EUR. In 2012, it was 100 057 200 GEL (43 503 130 EUR), in 2013, 80 000 000 GEL (34 782 610 EUR) and in 2014 80 000 000 GEL (34 782 610 EUR) (1 EUR = 2.3 GEL). In 2012 the increase of the budget was mainly caused by the Parliamentary elections. In 2014,

Local budgets

The information about allocation of funds for culture and cultural spheres at the local, regional and municipal levels has been difficult to collate, mainly due to the small funds and poor infrastructure. An exception was the large cities with big budgets, where municipalities had separate departments for culture. However, in 2005 the independent departments for culture were liquidated even in Tbilisi and integrated in the department of social affairs, sports and youth.

However, Tbilisi municipality often finances various cultural events, not just in Tbilisi, but in other cities and towns as well, though the exact budget data (or the transparent access to those data) are not available. Such funding transfers are often dependent on the interests of the ruling establishment and are often the subject to public debates (the lack of transparency

of transfers and political assessments thereof are discussed by strong NGOs such as the Georgian Young Lawyers Association.)

The local budget data have not been available since 2008.

The estimated expenses to be spent on *culture from the local budget* in **2006** was 69 940 200 GEL (actual expenditure: 67 421 900 GEL). In the first six months of **2007**, estimated expenses amounted to 35 388 800 GEL (actual expenditure: 28 824 500 GEL).

GDP and per capita expenditure

In 2009, due to the world economic crisis, the economic growth in Georgia was determined at -4%. However, in 2010 the economic growth was at 6.4 %.

In 2012, the nominal indicator of the gross domestic product amounted to 26 167.3 million GEL, that is 5 423.9 million GEL more than the indicator for 2010

Table 8: Dynamics of GDP, in million GEL, 2005-2013

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*
GDP	11 620.9	13 789.9	16 993.8	19 074.9	17 948.6	20 743.4	24 344.0	26 167.3	27 009.2

* Planned

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	2018*
GDP at current prices, mil. GEL	20743.4	24344.0	26167.3	26847.4	29150.5	31755.6	34028.5	38042.2	9150.2
GDP at constant 2010 prices, mil. GEL	20743.4	22241.4	23653.8	24454.9	25585.6	26322.5	27072.4	28422.3	6323.3
GDP real growth, percent	6.2	7.2	6.4	3.4	4.6	2.9	2.8	5.0	5.3
GDP deflator, percent	8.5	9.5	1.1	-0.8	3.8	5.9	4.2	6.5	4.3
GDP per capita (at current prices), GEL**	5478.0	6480.6	7017.5	7221.6	7837.4	8524.3	9129.0	10204.4	2453.4
GDP per capita (at current prices), USD**	3073.0	3843.7	4249.8	4341.4	4438.3	3754.9	3857.3	4067.7	987.1
GDP at current prices, mil. USD	11636.5	14438.5	15846.8	16139.9	16507.8	13988.1	14377.9	15164.5	3681.6

*Adjusted data will be published on November 15, 2018.

** Per capita indicators for quarterly and annual figures were revised in line with updated data from 2014 general population census.

Gross Output, at current prices

According to the Ministry of Finance data, from January-June 2007, as compared with the same period of the previous year, the *actual gross domestic product* increased by 12.5% and exceeded 7.5 billion GEL in nominal terms. The significant share in the growth of GDP is due to industry, trade and transport. These three branches provided the growth of GDP by 5.5%, or 44% of the total rise in GDP.

In 2006-2007, the *state cultural expenditure per inhabitant* amounted to 15.6 GEL and 20.5 GEL respectively that is 0.5% of GDP per inhabitant. (Source: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection). In June 2007, as compared with December 2006, the general rate of customer prices increased by 4.1%. During the twelve-month period (from June 2006 to June 2007) the inflation rate was 7.3%.

The expenditure of households on cultural events and commodities is available in [chapter 8.2.1](#)) however, since 2003, such studies have not been held and new data are not available.

According to data for 2003 from the State Department for Statistics, recreation and culture represented 1.8% of *the total personal consumption in households*, which is half of the 2002 figure of 3.9%.

According to the 2016 data:

- Tourism share in the economy is 7.1%
- The cultural activity share in the country's GDP is 2.8%
- Employment in the field of culture is 5.2%
- The share of culture in household expenditures is 1.1%

Source: UNESCO "Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS) for Georgia", 2017; EU-Eastern Partnership Culture and Creativity Program; the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection 2017 Report.

6.2 Public cultural expenditure**6.2.1 Aggregated indicators****Table 9: Public cultural expenditure per capita in Georgia, in GEL, 2000-2010**

Year	State expenditure	GDP	% of GDP	Population	Expenditure per capita
2000	29 482 900	6 015 500 000	0.50	4 435 200	6.64
2001	29 435 600	6 647 100 000	0.44	4 401 400	6.68
2002	39 815 500	7 459 400 000	0.52	4 371 535	9.10
2003	41 453 500	8 564 700 000	0.46	4 342 600	9.54
2004	69 067 900	9 969 800 000	0.69	4 315 200	16.00
2005	73 877 600	11 620 900 000	0.63	4 289 100	17.22
2006	123 888 600	13 789 900 000	0.5	4 401 300	15.6
2007	112 502 500	16 998 600 000	0.66	4 401 300	20.5
2008	77 843 900	19 736 700 000	0.40	4 401 300	17.68
2009	106 672 900	23 666 200 000	0.45	4 401 300	24.9
2010	96 583 700	28 118 900 000	0.34	4 401 300	21.9

Source: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection.

* The data for 2000-2003 has been calculated for culture only, since 2004-2007 – for culture, sports and youth affairs.

In comparison to other European countries, public culture expenditure per capita in Georgia is very low: GEL 21.9 (or 8.7 EUR) in 2010, respectively, to 0.46 % of the GDP in 2010; GEL 17.22 (or 7.8 EUR) in 2005 against GEL 16 in 2004, and corresponded, respectively, to 0.63 % of the GDP in 2005 and to 0.69 % in 2004. An increase in per capita spending is related to the general growth of GDP in 2005.

Table 10: Public cultural expenditure per capita in Georgia: Ministry of Culture, in GEL, 2000-2012

Year	Expenditure	GDP	% of GDP	Population	Expenditure per capita
2000	7 527 000	6 015 500 000	0.13	4 435 200	1.70
2001	7 882 700	6 647 100 000	0.12	4 401 400	1.79
2002	11 483 400	7 459 400 000	0.15	4 371 535	2.63

2003	9 732 300	8 564 700 000	0.11	4 342 600	2.24
2004	28 906 700	9 969 800 000	0.29	4 315 200	6.70
2005	32 554 400	11 620 900 000	0.28	4 289 100	7.59
2006	53 948 400	13 789 900 000	0.5	4 401 300	12.25
2007	77 113 700	16 998 600 000	0.4	4 401 300	12.22
2008	48 765 200	19 736 700 000	0.5	4 401 300	17.90
2009	64 028 800	23 666 200 000	0.4	4 401 300	16.95
2010	77 025 000	28 118 900 000	0.3	4 401 300	15.90
2011	84 000 000	33 104 000 000	0.3	4 401 300	19.08
2012	91 000 000	38 433 800 000	0.2	4 401 300	20.67

Source: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection.

* In 2000-2003: Ministry of Culture. From 2004-2010: Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sports. Since 2010: Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection.

Table 11: Public cultural expenditure per capita in Georgia: Local authorities, in GEL, 2000-2007

Year	Culture expenditure	Share of total
2000	21 955 900	6.8
2001	21 552 900	5.3
2002	28 332 100	6.3
2003	31 721 200	6.3
2004	40 161 200	5.9
2005	41 323 200	5.4
2006	69 940 200	0.5
2007	35 388 800	0.5

Source: Ministry of Finance.

6.2.2 Public cultural expenditure broken down by level of government

Table 12: Public cultural expenditure: by level of government, 2010

Level of government	Total expenditure in GEL	Total expenditure in EUR	% share of total
State (central, federal)	96 583 700 GEL	40 243 208 EUR	100%
Regional (provincial, Länder, etc.)	N/A	---	-----
Local (municipal, incl. counties)	N/A	---	-----
TOTAL	96 583 700 GEL	40 243 208 EUR	100%

Source: Ministry of Finance.
Data for local budgets are not available.

Table 13: State budget funds earmarked for the programmes to be implemented by spending institutions, in thousand GEL, 2012-2015

Field / Domain / Sub-domain	TOTAL		of which: <u>Direct</u> expenditure** (of government or its agencies)	of which: <u>Transfers</u> **		
	in 1 000	in %		to levels government	other of	to NGOs, individuals companies,
I. Cultural Heritage	37 018.4	23.05	25 310.5	N/A		N/A
<i>Historical Monuments</i>	16 226.6	10.12	16 226.6	N/A		N/A
<i>Museums</i>	11 550.0	7.20	11 550.0	N/A		N/A
<i>Archives</i>	3 741.7	2.33	3 741.7	N/A		N/A
<i>Libraries</i>	5 500.1	3.40	5 500.1**	N/A		N/A
II. Programme for the Development of Arts	56 435.5	35.29	56 435.5	N/A		N/A
<i>Visual Arts</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Fine Arts / Plastic Arts</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Photography</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Architecture</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Design / Applied Arts</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Performing Arts</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Music</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Theatre, Music Theatre, Dance</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Multidisciplinary</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Books and Press</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Books</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Press</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
III. Audiovisual and Multimedia	50 899.2	31.77	50 899.2	N/A		N/A
<i>Cinema</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Television</i>	50 599.2 300.0	31.58 0.18	50 599.2*** 300.0****	N/A		N/A
IV. Interdisciplinary	15 845.1	9.89	15 845.1	N/A		N/A
<i>Socio-culture</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Cultural Relations Abroad</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
<i>Administration</i>	4 433.7	2.7	4 433.7	N/A		N/A

<i>Cultural Education</i>	11 411.4	7.1	11 411.4	N/A	N/A
V. Not covered by domain I-VI	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	160 189.2	100	160 189.2		

6.2.3 Sector breakdown

Table 14: State cultural expenditure in Georgia: by sector, in GEL, 2012

LINE ITEM	Total 2012	Budget funds	Total 2013	Budget funds	Total 2014	Budget funds
Ministry for Culture and Protection Monuments	95 067.6	81 500.0	98 775.00	85 000.0	99 430.5	85 000.0
Policy making and programme management in the field of culture and protection of monuments	3 569.0	3 569.0	4 569.0	4 569.0	4 569.0	4 569.0
Arts development and promotion in Georgia and overseas	54 698.0	49 819.7	54 629.0	49 821.0	54 689.0	49 821.0
Stimulation of the arts education system	16 619.6	10 143.5	18 403.5	11 903.5	18 855.5	
Protection of cultural heritage and improvement of museum system	20 181.0	17 967.8	21 173.5	18 706.5	17.0	18 706.5

Source: State Budget of Georgia, the Ministry of Finance.

The data for sectors is only available for the national budget; the data for municipalities is not available.

* Archives – (within the budget of the Ministry of Justice).

** Libraries (National) – (within the budget of the Parliament of Georgia).

*** TV and Radio – (direct financing from the state budget).

**** TV of the Georgian Apostolic Orthodox Church .

Table 15: State cultural expenditure in Georgia: by sector, in thousand GEL, 2010-2014

Field / Domain/ Sub-domain	Direct and State programmes expenditure					% of total				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Presidential national programmes	3 551.5	0	0	0	0	3.67	0	0	0	0
Cultural Heritage	32 145. 4	25 310.5	37 018.4	25 499.5	29 698.7	33.28	22.9	23.1	20.86	22.13
<i>Historical Monuments</i>	<i>7 000.0</i>	<i>7 798.0</i>	<i>16 226.6</i>	<i>7 000.0</i>	<i>6 500.0</i>	<i>7.24</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>10.12</i>	<i>5.72</i>	<i>4.84</i>
<i>Museums</i>	<i>14 988.8</i>	<i>8 003.5</i>	<i>11 550.0</i>	<i>8 990.5</i>	<i>9 543.0</i>	<i>15.51</i>	<i>7.24</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>7.35</i>	<i>7.11</i>
<i>Archives*</i>	<i>4 290.0</i>	<i>4 000.0</i>	<i>3 741.7</i>	<i>4 000.0</i>	<i>6 250.0</i>	<i>4.44</i>	<i>3.62</i>	<i>2.33</i>	<i>3.27</i>	<i>4.65</i>
<i>Libraries and literature**</i>	<i>5 866.6</i>	<i>5 509.0</i>	<i>5 500.1</i>	<i>5 509.0</i>	<i>7 405.7</i>	<i>6.07</i>	<i>4.98</i>	<i>3.4</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>5.52</i>
Programme for the Development of Arts	N/A	N/A	56 435.5	37 871.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.24		N/A
Arts	23 465.0	24 158.0	N/A	26 606.2	29 169.0	24.29	21.9	N/A	21.77	21.74
<i>Visual Arts (including design)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>150.0</i>	<i>150.0</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.11</i>
<i>Music (including folk)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>5 830.0</i>	<i>7 809.0</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>4.77</i>	<i>5.82</i>
<i>Theatre and Musical Theatre</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>19 071.2</i>	<i>20 530.0</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>15.30</i>
<i>Support of the Ministry of Culture</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>375.0</i>	<i>500.0</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.37</i>
<i>Other events</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>1 180.0</i>	<i>180.0</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.13</i>
Media	22 300.0	45 300.0	50 899.2	38 453.0	44 570.0	23.08	41	31.77	31.46	33.22
<i>Books and Press</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Books***</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>1 000.0</i>	<i>1 000.0</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.75</i>
<i>Press</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Audio, Audiovisual and Multimedia</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Cinema</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>4 770.0</i>	<i>4 770.0</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>3.55</i>
<i>Television& Radio****</i>	<i>22 300</i>	<i>45 300.0</i>	<i>50 599.2</i>	<i>31 883.0</i>	<i>38 000.0</i>	<i>23.08</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>31.58</i>	<i>26.0</i>	<i>28.32</i>
<i>Other*****</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>300.0</i>	<i>800.0</i>	<i>800.0</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>0.18</i>	<i>0.65</i>	<i>0.60</i>
Interdisciplinary	15 121.7	15 721.7	15 845.1	21 651.3	30 743.0	15.65	14.2	9.89	17.71	22.92
<i>Socio-cultural *****</i>	<i>868.8</i>	<i>839.0</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>1 145.6</i>	<i>4 321.0</i>	<i>0.89</i>	<i>0.75</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>0.93</i>	<i>3.22</i>

<i>Cultural Relations Abroad</i>	1 112.8	1 437.2	N/A	4 350.0	4 350.0	1.15	1.3	N/A	3.55	3.24
<i>Administration</i>	3 561.5	3 557.0	4 433.7	3 886.0	5 147.0	3.68	3.21	2.7	3.18	3.86
<i>Educational Activities</i>	9 578.6	9 888.5	11 411.4	12 269.7	13 410.0	9.91	8.9	7.1	10.0	9.99
<i>Cultural sustainability and financial support programme</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	9 982.2	3 515.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.16	2.61
TOTAL	96 583.600	110 490 200	160 198.2	122 192.0	134 180.7	100	100	100	100	100

Source: State Budget of Georgia, the Ministry of Finance.

Note: The data for sectors is only available for the national budget; the data for municipalities is not available.

* **Archives** – (within the budget of the Ministry of Justice).

** **Libraries (National)** (within the budget of the Parliament of Georgia).

*** **Chamber of Books** (direct financing from state budget).

**** **TV and Radio** (direct financing from state budget).

***** Georgian Apostolic Autocephalic Orthodox Church TV (direct financing from the state budget).

***** Socio-cultural-in 2009, the total for the Arts and Sport.

Table 15 a: State cultural expenditure in Georgia: by sector, in thousand GEL, 2015-2017

Field / Domain/ Sub-domain	Direct expenditure and State programmes			% of total		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Cultural Heritage	38,890.1	31,186.5	34,559.1	24.5	19.6	20.1
<i>Historical Monuments</i>	11,361.4	5,518.3	7,035.5	7.2	3.5	4.1
<i>Museums</i>	10,932.2	10,616.9	11,662.5	6.9	6.7	6.8
<i>Archives*</i>	7,629.4	6,745.0	7,450.0	4.8	4.2	4.3
<i>Libraries and literature**</i>	8,967.1	8,306.3	8,411.4	5.6	5.2	4.9
Policy making and programme management in the field of culture and protection of monuments	5,659.5	5,538.5	4,907.5	3.8	3.7	3
Arts	42,599.7	46,825.9	47,872.5	26.8	29.4	28
<i>Visual Arts (including design)</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Music (including folk)</i>	10,692.5	11,823.4	9,726.2	6.7	7.4	5.7
<i>Theatre and Musical Theatre</i>	25,962.7	25,090.6	35,278.7	16.4	15.8	20.6
<i>Support of the Ministry of Culture</i>	5,944.5	9,911.9	2,867.6	3.7	6.2	1.7

<i>Other ivent</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Media	49,093.0	52,408.6	55,385.9	30.9	32.9	32.3
<i>Books and Press</i>	<i>1,334.5</i>	<i>1,293.1</i>	<i>1,872.9</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Books***</i>	<i>1,334.5</i>	<i>1,293.1</i>	<i>1,872.9</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Press</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Audio, Audiovisual and Multimedia</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Cinema</i>	<i>5,872.4</i>	<i>5,816.9</i>	<i>6,308.0</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>3.7</i>
<i>Television& Radio ****</i>	<i>41,086.1</i>	<i>44,498.6</i>	<i>46,405.0</i>	<i>25.9</i>	<i>28.0</i>	<i>27.1</i>
<i>Other *****</i>	<i>800.0</i>	<i>800.0</i>	<i>800.0</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Interdisciplinary	22,224.8	22,912.8	28,570.9	14	14.4	16.6
<i>Socio-cultural</i>	<i>990.5</i>	<i>875.7</i>	<i>827.2</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0,5</i>
<i>Cultural Relations Abroad</i>	<i>4,655.5</i>	<i>2,348.2</i>	<i>2,047.5</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>1.2</i>
<i>Administration</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Educational Activities</i>	<i>15,879.7</i>	<i>17,354.1</i>	<i>20,158.4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>11.7</i>
<i>Cultural sustainability and financial support programme</i>	<i>699.1</i>	<i>2,334.8</i>	<i>5,537.8</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>3.2</i>
TOTAL	158,467.1	158,872.3	171,295.9	100	100	100

Source: State Budget of Georgia, the Ministry of Finance.

Note: The data for sectors is only available for the national budget; the data for municipalities is not available.

* **Archives** – (within the budget of the Ministry of Justice).

** **Libraries (National)** (within the budget of the Parliament of Georgia).

*** **Books** (within the budget of the National Center for Georgian Books)

**** **TV and Radio** (direct financing from state budget).

***** Georgian Apostolic Autocephalic Orthodox Church TV (direct financing from the state budget).

6.3 Trends and indicators for private cultural financing

The independent foundation-Cartu Group (the owner is Georgian billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili) has published its expenses for charitable activities it supported from 2005 to 2010. Ivanishvili allocated a total of 1 156 081 151 GEL through the charitable funds "Cartu", "Foundation for Protection and Rescue of Historical Monuments" and the Association "Atus". The areas supported were culture, art, sport, medicine, science, education, agriculture and socially vulnerable people. The amount spent on culture was 592 017 109 GEL (see the Table below).

Table 16: Expenses of charitable institutions, in GEL, 2005-2010

Year	Institutions	Domain	Expenses	Total
2005	International charitable fund "Cartu"	Culture sphere	16 585 793	27 095 202
		Construction of churches	10 090 382	
	Foundation for Protection and Rescue of Historical Monuments	Restoration of 15 monuments and churches	419 027	
2006	International charitable fund "Cartu"	Construction of St. Trinity Cathedral	9 280 000	157 768 892
	Foundation for Protection and Rescue of Historical Monuments	Construction of 69 historical monuments and churches	2 349 883	
	Association "Atu"	Construction and rehabilitation of recreation and cultural-entertainment objects, construction of education objects	146 139 009	
2007	International charitable fund "Cartu"	Construction of St. Trinity Cathedral, charitable financing of culture and art spheres	181 916 475	184 734 569
	Foundation for Protection and Rescue of Historical Monuments	Restoration of historical and cultural monuments, 81 churches	2 818 094	
2008	International charitable fund "Cartu"	Charitable financing of culture	170 223 837	174 421 999
	Foundation for Protection and Rescue of Historical Monuments	Restoration of 113 churches	4 198 162	
2009	International charitable fund "Cartu"	Social aid to the honoured art workers	4 438 065	25 660 774
		Reconstruction of J. Kakhidze Music Centre	4 681 100	
		Reconstruction of S. Janashia State Museum of History	1 431 400	
		Reconstruction of Al. Griboedov Russian Drama theatre	1 338 300	
	Foundation for Protection and Rescue of Historical Monuments	Rehabilitation of 133 historical monuments	4 340 403	
		Complex restoration of medieval architecture and painting monuments	4 480 606	
		Construction of Natanebi concert hall	4 950 900	
2010	International charitable fund "Cartu"	Financing of culture and art sphere	18 089 169	22 335 673
	Foundation for Protection and Rescue of Historical Monuments	Restoration-rehabilitation of 212 historical churches	4 246 504	

Source: <http://www.ambebi.ge/sazogadoeba/43340-2005-2010-tslebshi-bidzina-ivanishvilma-qvelmoqmedebaze-1-156-081-151-lari-dakharja.html#ixzz4xBonje9N>

The ratio of expenses of Cartu Group to the budget of the Ministry of Culture and Cultural Heritage in the same years is the following:

Table 17: Expenses of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection and of the Cartu Group, in GEL, in EUR, in %, 2005-2010

Year	Institutions	Total expenditure in GEL	Total expenditure in EUR	% share of total	Total In EUR
2005	Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection	32 554 400 GEL	13 564 333 EUR	54.57%	24 854 000
	Cartu Group	27 095 202 GEL	11 289 667 EUR	45.43%	
2006	Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection	53 948 400 GEL	22 478 500 EUR	25.48%	88 215 538
	Cartu Group	157 768 892 GEL	65 737 038 EUR	74.52%	
2007	Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection	77 113 700 GEL	32 130 708 EUR	29.45%	109 103 445
	Cartu Group	184 734 569 GEL	76 972 737 EUR	70.55%	
2008	Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection	48 765 200 GEL	20 318 833 EUR	21.8%	92 994 665
	Cartu Group	174 421 999 GEL	72 675 832 EUR	78.2%	
2009	Ministry of Culture, and Monument Protection	64 028 800 GEL	25 611 520 EUR	71.4%	35 875 829
	Cartu Group	25 660 774 GEL	10 264 309 EUR	28.6%	
2010	Ministry of Culture, and Monument Protection	77 025 000 GEL	30 810 000 EUR	76.8%	40 116 530
	Cartu Group	22 335 673 GEL	9 306 530 EUR	23.2%	

2017

Most cultural activities (e.g. exhibitions, editions, concerts, festivals, creation of performing arts samples etc.) are conducted with the funds allocated from state and municipal budgets, and a large share from the Georgian private funds is allocated for cultural heritage (e.g. with the support of the International Charity Foundation "Cartu" a large number of monuments of cultural heritage have been restored. In particular, according to the 2017 report of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection the Foundation "Cartu" allocated 7,593,324 GEL for 15 monuments of cultural heritage, while in the same period the Ministry spent 3,562,000 GEL for 46 monuments. In 2017 the restoration-rehabilitation of 24 monuments was completed, and out of total 36,700,000 GEL spent for this activity the budgetary amount is only 7,000,000 GEL and 29,700 000 GEL was allocated by the Foundation "Cartu").

The information about the forms of cooperation between the state institutions and Cartu Group (any official agreements or project contracts) is not available.

The current state subsidy system is insufficient for the development-oriented cultural activities. Financial sources are not diversified; there is no sound strategy for a new financial model.

Georgian legislation has not yet developed sponsorship and charitable funding concepts and only church construction is exempted from tax.

7. Public institutions in cultural infrastructure

7.1 Cultural infrastructure: tendencies & strategies

According to Georgian legislation, cultural organisations (as for other organisations) may have three types of legal status – state, private profit making legal entities and non-profit making (non-state) organisations.

Division of financial liabilities between the state and municipalities is still an on-going issue; this is a good example of an unstable process in the current grave economic conditions. There has been a systematic transfer of various organisations from the control of central government to municipal control and vice versa. There have been many such shuttle movements in 2004-2005 for the following reasons: the imbalance of the legislative base requiring permanent and radical changes (new **Law on Public Theatres**, ongoing amendments to the **Laws on Local Administration and Self-government** etc.) and the system of delimitation of references in the making.

For many years the funds of municipal budgets were regular while the allocations from the central budget were less regular. This regularity of municipal allocations would indicate that perhaps municipalities should support the organisations of national importance in their own territories. Tbilisi Municipality would be particularly suitable in this regard in that it operates under its own legislative regime - The **Law on the Capital City of Georgia** – Tbilisi.

However, the situation is different in the Autonomous Republics. After the establishment of separatist power in Abkhazia and the forcible expatriation of 300 000 people (1993), cultural life is ideologically influenced and does not conform to the cultural policy pursued by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia.

From 1990-2004 in Ajaria Autonomous Republic there was a political and socio-economic situation which influenced the development of culture. Ajaria did not participate in the wars of the 1990s and therefore preserved the cultural infrastructure of the Soviet period. The Republic had full autonomy of executive power over its own budget, which meant that it did not have to pay taxes to the central budget of Georgia. In light of this healthy budget and in virtue of the political problems, the Ajarian government also avoided the ideological control of the central authorities. Instead, Ajaria developed its own centralised and ideological cultural policy, using strict censorship over the mass media. From 1990-2004 the Batumi Institute of Arts and Batumi State Conservatory were established. The local authorities were most favourable to the development of opera. Performances of the local Theatre of Opera and Ballet involved famous Georgian performers from Tbilisi and from abroad.

However, cultural activities were irregular and were concentrated on the performing arts. No cultural events reached the poor, agrarian regions of Ajaria, as attendance at cultural events were unaffordable for this section of the population whose living standards were extremely low, even compared with standards in Georgia.

In May 2004 after the Rose Revolution, the governing system in Ajaria Autonomous Republic changed. Constitutional reforms were carried out and central Georgian control was enforced in the region. As a result of this central control, the cultural policy of Ajaria started to conform more to the policy pursued by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia.

No independent counsels of culture exist in Georgia.

The comparatively poorly developed private and non-governmental cultural sector (including art galleries, theatres, publishing houses) acts more or less independently from the governmental cultural policy because they are financed either by donors (mainly via international grants) or depend on the market, which is also poorly developed.

As for the mass media, the role of the state was very clear in the period 1990-2004. Prior to the Rose Revolution in November 2003, the government channels were tightly controlled, but private companies operated freely. The post-revolutionary period is characterised by a decrease in the mass media market, especially in the regions. Along with the

creation of public broadcasting there was a reduced polarisation of the mass media – all companies, with rare exceptions, maintain a policy of political correctness.

In 2007 the situation in mass media was revealed and aggravated in kind of the opposition between independent TV companies "Imedi" and "Caucasia" and pro-governmental TV companies "Rustavi-2", "Alania", "Public Broadcasting", "Mze" ended with the closing of TV company "Imedi" on November 7, 2007 (see ➡ [chapter 4.2.6](#)).

Since 2005, the Georgian state has supported private investments in the cultural sector. However, there are some issues in relation to the investment climate for culture, especially in respect of cultural monuments; the majority of investors are not interested in and do not want to protect and defend the national values advocated by the state. Under the **Law on Culture, the Law on Cultural Heritage** (2007) and **the Law on the Privatisation of State-owned Property**, the cultural heritage of Georgia, as well as other cultural values specified by the Law, are excluded from privatisation.

Some cultural values may be "privatised" in accordance with the Law and with the consent of the relevant ministry, provided that the cultural activity will be preserved for a specific term: for example, the co-owner-entrepreneur intends to build a cinema-city on a part of the territory by restoring the film studio in the centre of Tbilisi.

Recently, there has been a tendency to allow the long-term lease of a part of public spaces and the sale of objects regarded as cultural monuments. Until now, because of the inadequacy of legislation on the protection of cultural heritage, the state has not had the regulating levers to guarantee an investor's liabilities and protection of the cultural heritage. This issue has attracted healthy public protest. The **Cultural Heritage Law** adopted in 2007 is intended to create such levers and guarantees (see ➡ [chapter 5.3.3](#)).

These "infringements" have resulted in protests from the public.

Many debates took place after the 2012 elections, at the first stage of the Georgian Dream ruling.

The issue of modern infrastructure in the field of culture is an important challenge.

The budgetary funds do not meet the needs of infrastructure rehabilitation and development.

„The cultural infrastructure dissemination in Georgia according to CDIS survey is 0.312. This final result of 0.312 is low for the average indicator of spaces designed for museums, libraries, exhibitions and performing arts in Georgia´´.

Source: UNESCO "Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS) Georgia", 2017; EU-Eastern Partnership Culture and Creativity Program:
<https://www.culturepartnership.eu/upload/editor/2017/Policy%20Briefs/CDIS%20Georgia%20Analytical%20and%20Technical%20Report.pdf>

Therefore, in the ``Culture Strategy 2025`` approved in 2016, this issue is given a strategic role.

"Culture Strategy 2025

Chapter II: Strategic Goals

Cultural Infrastructure and New Technologies

Goal: The infrastructure of culture is developed, necessary professional environment is provided and the application of new technologies is ensured.

5.1 Objective: The development and effective management of the cultural infrastructure contributes to producing and disseminating high-quality cultural products and services, preserving cultural properties and improving working environment in accordance with international standards.

Tasks:

- Develop the infrastructure of culture across the country - construction of new and rehabilitation of existing buildings, provision of better material-technical base;
- Develop human resources to improve the management of the cultural infrastructure and allow multi-functional use of existing capital assets;
- Create healthy and safe working environment for the employees of cultural establishments and organisations, in accordance with international standards;
- Rely on ecological principles of construction, green architecture standards (e.g.: energy efficiency, sustainable resources etc.) when planning, constructing and renovating cultural infrastructure, in order to save resources and mitigate negative impact on the natural environment;
- Develop additional facilities for cultural sites and create necessary touristic infrastructure (e.g. information signs, roads leading to monuments, parking spaces, water supply systems, restroom facilities etc.);
- Acknowledge cultural infrastructure as an integral part of urban development and provide appropriate spaces for the creation, communities, enhance the identity of various groups and improve the quality of life. exhibition and presentation of art, which shall in return encourage the development of culture, branding of populated communities, enhance the identity of various groups and improve the quality of life. ''

7.2 Basic data about selected public institutions in the cultural sector

Table 18: Cultural institutions financed by public authorities, by domain

Domain	Cultural institutions (subdomains)	Number (Year)	Trend (++) to --)
Cultural heritage	Cultural heritage sites (recognised)	14	
	Museums (organisations)	183 (2011)	++
	Archives (of public authorities)	2	
Visual arts	Public art galleries / exhibition halls	not available	
	Art academies (or universities)	1 1 college	
Performing arts	Symphony orchestras	2	
	State Music Centre	2	
	State Folklore Centre of Georgia	1	
	Music schools	200	
	Music / theatre academies (or universities)	3 2 college	
	Dramatic theatre	35 (2011)	++
	Puppet theatre	6 (2011)	~
	Children's Theatre and Theatre for Young People	2 (2011)	~
	Music theatres, opera houses	2 (2011)	~
	State Academic Ensemble of Folk Song and Dance	3	
Books and Libraries	Libraries	824 (2008)	+
Audiovisual	Broadcasting organisations	2	

Interdisciplinary	Socio-cultural centres / cultural houses	not available	
Other (please explain)			

Sources: Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection, State Department for Statistics.

7.3 Status and partnerships of public cultural institutions

Since 1999, in compliance with the *Law on Legal Entities under the Public Law*, the main institutions of culture have been re-registered and established as legal entities. However, this Law has failed to fully regulate all those legal relations which determine the status of organisations under the control of the local bodies of administration and self-government (see [chapter 3.2](#)).

Most institutions under the control of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia were established as legal entities under public law, including:

- Zachariah Paliashvili State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet;
- Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi State Academic Drama Theatre;
- Kote Marjanishvili Tbilisi State Academic Theatre;
- National Museum;
- State Music Centre;
- National Centre of Cinematography;
- State Folklore Centre of Georgia;
- Iliko Sukhishvili and Nino Ramishvili State Academy Troupe of the Georgian National Ballet;
- State Academic Ensemble of Folk Song and Dance of Georgia "Rustavi";
- State Academic Ensemble of Georgian Folk Song and Dance "Erisioni";
- Vano Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatory;
- Apollon Kutateladze Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts; and
- Shota Rustaveli Georgian State University of Theatre and Cinema.

The funds of state status do not exist in Georgia. Though it is the urgent need in the state funds which will accumulate the assets for development and support of culture, no adequate legislative activities have been held in spite of the permanent debates on this issue. All private donations pass the funds with the status of non-governmental, non-profit organisations.

All private donations for the public organisations and institutions – legal persons under the public law subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia pass through the funds with the status of non-governmental non-profit organisations.

The long-term cooperation between public institutions of culture and private sponsors is somewhat irregular and unofficial. One of the few sponsors regularly cooperating with key organisations of national importance is the Georgian fund "Cartu", which has financed large projects such as the restoration and repair of Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi State Academic Drama Theatre, Kote Marjanishvili Tbilisi State Academic Theatre, M. Tumanishvili Municipal Film Actors' Theatre –Studio etc.

Other important examples of cooperation between the state (the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection and international funds are the Soros Foundation and the British Council in Georgia etc. These initiatives often encourage participation of NGOs and cultural societies to cooperate in projects with central or local authorities as a third partner (e.g. sometimes as the contractor in a joint project, e.g. with the Soros Foundation. In 2006, the Programme for Culture and Art in the Georgian branch of the Soros Fund – The Open Society Georgia Foundation - was closed.

Two examples of public-private partnerships or collaborations (involving state, municipalities and NGOs) which have been very successful are the traditional international film festival "Prometheus" and Tbilisi Jazz Festival, which attract many visitors and sponsors.

A special mention should be given to the Fund for Preservation and Rescue of Georgian Historical Monuments, which is the only privately funded donor organisation active in the cultural heritage field since 2004. The Fund has the biggest share in financing the restoration, inventory and rehabilitation of listed properties. In 2004-2009, the Fund financed more than 430 projects all over the country, including 390 Orthodox churches (After the restoration most of these churches reopened). The archaeological works have been implemented on the most important sites in Georgia and abroad (e.g. Ghalia Monastery in Cyprus). The Fund also provided financing to equip conservation research laboratories at the Restoration Faculty of the Academy of Fine Arts and the Nokalakevi museum-reserve. The Fund actively co-operates with the MoC, the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation and the Patriarchate of Georgia to define the priorities and agree the annual list of monuments for rehabilitation.

8. Promoting creativity and participation

8.1 Support to artists and other creative workers

8.1.1 Overview of strategies, programmes and direct or indirect forms of support

Until 2004, the state supported artists through art unions. During the Soviet period, indirect support to artists was available in the form of space for studios and low rent for shops, distribution of tools and materials etc. This type of indirect support is no longer available.

At the state level, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection provides funds for competitions for professionals working in several fields (e.g. theatre, film, publishing, music etc), for general cultural actions (reproduction, transmission etc.) and extra cultural actions (education, IT etc.). The Presidential National Programme provides support to folklore, music seasons / events and ballet arts (in 2009 this programme amounted to 25 890 000 GEL). For more information on the budget breakdown, see ➡ [chapter 6.2.3](#).

There are no special programmes to provide pensions or health contributions for freelance artists.

8.1.2 Special artists funds

Information is currently not available.

8.1.3 Grants, awards, scholarships

A special programme of state awards in literature, art and architecture (2 878 800 GEL in 2005), as well as a programme for the support of gifted children and teenagers, now operates in Georgia.

Art workers awards are as follows:

- Order of Honor; and
- Medal of Honor.

These awards are given for exclusive achievements in various fields of culture and art. The candidates are nominated by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection. Decisions on awards are made by the State Committee for Honor Awards at the President's Administration.

The following awards are given by the Committee for State Awards in literature, art and architecture:

- Shota Rustaveli State Award (once in three years); and
- State Award of Georgia (annually).

Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection gives the following awards in drama and music – for vocal ensembles, opera and Estrada singers and folklorists.

In addition to the State Awards, there are awards given by the Union of Theatre Workers – K. Marjanishvili Award and S. Akhmeteli Award (every 2 years); by the Artists' Union – the award for the best piece of the year, the prize for the best gallery of the year; by the music society – Z. Paliashvili award (every 4 years) and the S. Tsintsadze award for the best music ensemble (every 4 years).

Notable awards instituted by private organizations

- "Saba" - an annual literary award was founded in 2003. The founders of the award are TBC Bank and Pen Center. "Saba" is awarded in the following nominations:
 - The best novel of the year;
 - The best poetic collection of the year;
 - The best prosaic collection of the year;
 - The best play of the year;
 - The best literary debut of the year;
 - The best literary criticism of the year;
 - The best essay and documentary prose of the year;
 - The best Georgian translation of a foreign piece;
 - The best foreign translation of a Georgian piece;
 - The best e-book.

The winners of the "Saba" prizes are awarded for their special contribution to the development of literature and are also given cash prizes. The premium fund consists of 52 thousand GEL, which is awarded to the winners by TBC Bank.

- "Duruji" – this annual theater prize was initiated and supported by businessman Lasha Papashvili in 2008. The number of nominations is variable. In the 2016-2017 season "Duruji" was awarded in the following nominations:
 - The best directing work - the amount of this prize is 12,000 GEL;
 - The best actress - the amount of this prize is 2000 GEL;
 - The best actor - the amount of this prize is 2000 GEL;
 - The author of the best-selling Georgian play - the amount of this prize is 2000 GEL;
 - The best scenographer (artist) - the amount of this prize is 2000 GEL;

The special prize established by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia – to the best young director – amounts to 10,000 GEL. This amount should be used for the direction of a play in the next season. The age of the director nominated for this award must not exceed 35 years.

Mobility supporting state structures

- **Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection** - has a small travel grant program for artists.
- **Ministry of Education and Science** – in 2014 the International Center for Education was established, which awarded 482 academic scholarships in 2014-17 for Georgian citizens willing to study abroad (including 7 scholarships in arts in the year 2017).

Strategic documents supporting entrepreneurship

- **"Cultural Strategy 2025"** - In Goal 1.1 in the context of awareness raising and auditory development, as an example of an instrumental approach is given 'the elaboration of mechanisms for promotion of the creative industries', such as "creative incubators" and start-ups. In Goal 6.2. – the foundation of the State Promotion Program "Creative Georgia" is determined. Also 'implementing special programs for development of business skills in the culture sector and creative skills', and in the business sector: support for creation of "creative incubators", which will offer a special space and relevant services to creative industries, including start-up businesses.

Entrepreneurship Support Programs

There are no state programs directly supporting entrepreneurship in the field of culture, but an indirect support instrument has been created:

International

- **Eastern Partnership Program "Culture and Creativity"**. Within the framework of the program the educational activities are implemented in the context of culture and business correlation: "Nine Business Ideas of Georgian Youth (TEAMLAB GEORGIA 2016)". This practical workshop was conducted by the European Union and Eastern Partnership Program "Culture and Creativity", as well as by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. The workshop involved 35 thousand students from different universities - designers, business managers, engineers and artists.

National

- **LEPL "Creative Georgia"** was created in 2017; this is a legal entity of public law (LEPL) under the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, the subject of activity of which is the promotion of commercialization and sustainable development of innovative ideas in the cultural and creative sphere.
<https://www.culturepartnership.eu/upload/editor/2017/CDIS.%20report%20dreaft%20Geo.pdf>
- **LEPL Georgian Innovations and Technologies Agency** <https://gita.gov.ge/>, **Technopark** <https://gita.gov.ge/geo/static/45/teknoparki-tbilisi>; Founded in 2014. Among other directions it promotes the development of creative industries.
- **"Startup Georgia"** – the Innovative Business Promotion Program was founded by JSC Partnership Fund in 2016. Its purpose is to support the development of start-up businesses in Georgia. The program was jointly prepared by the Partnership Fund and the Georgian Innovations and Technologies Agency. "Startup Georgia" is part of economic reform, which is one of the components of the Government's 4-point plan (economic reform, education reform, spatial arrangement, governance reform). Projects in the cultural sphere are promoted to small extent.
- **Agency "Produce in Georgia"** is one of the first state agencies in Georgia, the main purpose of which is to improve the entrepreneurial environment, develop the private sector, promote export and attract investments; it has created the program of film industry promotion program "Shoot in Georgia". The program enables local and international producers interested in filmmaking to make a film or other audio-visual products and to refund qualified expenses up to 20-25%. <http://enterprisegeorgia.gov.ge/ge/media-center/news/saqarTvelo-kino-gadaRebebisTvis-wlis-saukeTeso-qveyanad-aRiares?id=593>
- LEPL "Children and Youth Development Foundation" was created in 2000. The aim of the Foundation is to support children and youth unions, to promote youth initiatives, finance their planned projects, arrange and implement activities. The Foundation activities is an integral part of the state youth policy and along with other priorities it promotes the youth cultural and social entrepreneurship initiatives. <http://fondi.gov.ge/>

Non-governmental Sector initiatives for promoting entrepreneurship in the field of culture

- International Center for Arts, founded in 1995, is one of the strongest multi-profile NGOs in the field of culture in Georgia contributing to the development of the cultural industry <http://www.gaccgeorgia.org>; The Center has founded:
- In the year 2013 – the social enterprise "Istoriali" (LLC). The objective of the enterprise is to transform a cultural resource into economically sustainable products - creating jobs for local artisans, increasing their income, introducing economic approaches in the traditional craft sector. Transferring traditions from generation to generation on the one hand, and on the other hand, popularizing Georgian culture through the revival of cultural heritage monuments, <http://www.istoriali.ge>
- In the year 2015 - N(N)LE "Association of Traditional Handicrafts". This is a member-based organization that cares about the preservation and future development of traditions of Georgian traditional crafts and decorative-applied art. The aim of the Association is to promote the viability of traditions and the cooperation among the masters, organizations and supporters working in this field. <http://crafts.ge/>
- In 2015, in cooperation with the National Agency of Cultural Heritage of Georgia, the **"Traditional Handicraft Master" title** award of the Traditional Crafts Association of Georgia was founded, which is awarded annually in various specific categories.
- The **Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia** was founded in 1995. One of the activities of the center is social entrepreneurship, in which various projects are financed, including traditional cultural industry projects. <http://www.csrdg.ge/>

8.1.4 Support to professional artists associations or unions

The **Law on Art Workers and Art Unions** regulates relations between artists' unions and the government, provides governmental subsidies for support of those organisations as legal entities under public law and guarantees their participation in the development of cultural programmes and decision-making. However, it was only until 2000 (prior to the Rose Revolution) that the state budget of Georgia assigned governmental funding to the main cultural unions of national significance – the Artists' Union, Writers' Union, Composers' Union, Theatre Workers' Unions. From 2001 until

2003, governmental funding was assigned to the Writers Union only and, since 2004, state subsidies to arts unions have been stopped.

However, the state and municipalities support associations and organisations indirectly by financing events, festivals and exhibitions which are arranged by the unions.

Georgian art unions are:

- Artists' Union of Georgia;
- Designers' Union of Georgia;
- Writers' Union of Georgia;
- Composers' Union of Georgia;
- Architects' Union of Georgia;
- Union of Cinema Workers of Georgia; and
- Union of Theatre Workers of Georgia.

After the Rose Revolution the art unions, which represented a rather powerful authority in the Soviet period, found themselves almost on the level of newly established NGOs, though they still obtain some capital and human resources to maintain and rehabilitate their function of support to artists. Legislative amendments have enabled this once powerful ideological structure to change in order to meet the needs of the contemporary free community. However, these unions need some indirect but effective measures for state support and, through the unions, for support of artists.

Under Georgian law, art unions are trade associations, with the status of a legal entity under the public law, which unite at least 5 art workers in literature or art.

The entrepreneurship aimed at profit-gaining in concrete cases specified by the law (***Law on Non-profit Organisations***) may be of subsidiary character for support of the activity of non-profit organisations. However, this provision is idle and creative unions suffer the financial crisis.

The legislation in this sphere is adequate however there are some problems in the execution of the acts of legislation and their administration. The ***Tax Code*** provides no benefits for art unions.

Recently, Georgian real estate has become the object of active interest from investors. This interest has led the state to sell the assets of some creative unions. In spite of their protests and attempts to restitute their property through the court, the unions are not winning. One example is sale, by the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia, of the holiday home for composers located in the resort-city Borjomi (reported by news agency Reuters), with a starting price of 4.5 million USD.

8.2 Cultural consumption and participation

8.2.1 Trends and figures

For the past 27 years (1990-2017) systematic research and polls in the sphere of culture have not been held in Georgia due to the extremely dramatic and dynamic political life aggravated with the socio-economic crisis. The exception was the sociological research carried out on focus groups for the Conception of Development of Culture and Tourism in Tbilisi, held by the Fund for Culture Salvation under the order of the Service of Culture and Sports of Tbilisi Municipality in 2004.

As the research was targeted only at the detection of specific urban trends, nationwide data on participation of various social groups, distinctive by gender, age or educational level, in cultural activity, is not available.

Data on culture from the State Department for Statistics is not useful either as in the majority of cases cultural information was compiled with education or recreation, entertainment or even religion. The differential indicators in the sphere of culture cannot be separated.

Unfortunately, in 2004-2005 the amount of statistical data on culture has further decreased.

In November 2007, the newly designated Prime Minister of Georgia announced the need to separate the State Department of Statistics from the Ministry of Economic Development, and on granting sovereignty to this Department, because in the majority of cases the data submitted by the Department was embroidered to conform to the ministry's policy. As development of culture is not among the priorities of the policy implemented by the Ministry of Economic Development, the statistical data on culture for 2006-2007 "dissolved" in the data on education or the data on the social sphere.

However, the general trends of participation are as follows: the trends of cultural participation, which had been constantly growing since 1995, reached a peak in 2003. In 2004-2005 participation figures have stopped growing and have decreased in some spheres. In general, the trend of participation is much lower than in the 1980s.

There are many reasons for the low figures: living standards are lower; comparatively lower range of cultural services, in some cases obsolete (as in museums and libraries) and some have disappeared (e.g. cinemas which don't operate and there has been almost a total stoppage of film production). In 2007, state assistance in the cinema sphere is still insignificant – 1 477 073 GEL (1.9% of the budget of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection); there is no real film production in Georgia.

During the past ten years the number of public libraries in Georgia reduced from 8 000 in 1990 to 2 160 in 2004. This decrease is most notable in the regions. However, for the last five years, the situation has stabilised to some extent.

Due to serious financial problems museums, archives and libraries are not able to maintain their infrastructure, to purchase new displays, publications, equipment etc. At the same time, for the past ten years the number of professional theatres has increased, although this increase took place at the expense of small theatres such as "Sardapi" or mobile troupes based on enterprise principles.

A decrease in visitor numbers was caused by the closing for repair of the largest academic theatres, on the one side, as well as the radically reduced average family income – only 1.8% of family incomes have been spent on culture, education and recreation jointly, with culture receiving 0.6%.

According to the data of 2016, the share of culture in household expenditure is 1.1%.

Source: UNESCO "Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS) for Georgia", 2017; EU-Eastern Partnership Culture and Creativity Program; the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection 2017 Report.

Table 19: Data on cultural participation in Georgia, 2000, 2005-2011

Number	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Public and universal libraries (quantity in units)	2 208	2 056	1 726	672	824	---	---	---
Book lending (in million copies)	31.1	28.3	20.7	---	17.3	---	---	---
Museums (quantity in units)	101	111	137	139	126	112	118	183

Visitors of museums (in thousand)	376.6	301.0	472.6	446.4	436.2	616.2	730.1	705.1
Theatres (quantity in units)	37	41	46	46	45	42	44	45
Spectators of theatres (in thousand)	508.2	256.0	343.6	437.8	394.3	468.6	359.9	404.2

Source: State Department for Statistics of Georgia.

Table 19 a: Data on cultural participation in Georgia, 2006-2017

Publishing of Books, Magazines and Newspapers													
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of copies, mln.	0,3	2,4	2,8	1,9	2,1	2,2	2,8	2,8	3,1	3,1	3,1	3,1	
Annual circulation of magazines and other periodicals, mln. copies	1,1	3,4	16,2	19,2	23,2	25,9	27,4	27,7	27,8	27,8	27,8	27,8	
Number of newspapers, unit	88	209	181	221	199	225	284	301	311	313	314	317	
Of which daily	...	13	15	15	12	14	12	14	14	14	14	14	16
2-3-times in a week ¹⁾	...	17	15	17	6	6	17	18	19	19	19	19	10
Weekly	...	59	50	57	12	17	49	49	51	52	51	51	52
Twice in month	...	34	25	32	19	29	24	25	26	26	26	26	12
Monthly	...	45	46	70	121	126	68	73	76	77	77	78	37
Once in every 2-3 month	...	13	6	8	5	8	35	38	39	39	39	39	12
Single Publishing	...	7	7	6	10	11	15	13	13	13	14	15	25
Annual Publishing	...	3	3	6	2	3	27	33	34	34	34	34	3
Irregular Publishing	...	18	14	10	12	11	37	38	39	39	40	41	51
Single circulation, mln. copies	0,4	0,8	0,5	0,7	0,5	0,8	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	...
Annual circulation, mln. copies	17,9	35,9	33,3	33,2	35,1	46,7	51,5	57,4	60,4	60,4	60,4	60,4	

¹⁾ in 2006-2008 years 2-4 times in a week.

Source: Ilia Chavchavadze National Parliamentary Library of Georgia

Table 19 b: Data on cultural participation in Georgia, 2006-2017

Museums (Museum Unions) and Museum Reserves													
unit	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total number of museums	111	137	139	126	112	118	183	188	191	193	207	219	241
of which:													
History/Regional Studies	52	48	50	47	33	32	61	61	60	60	60	60	69
Literature studies	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Arts	14	24	21	21	18	22	19	18	19	19	21	23	24
Museum Reserve	...	9	6	6	10	10	11	11	12	13	13	13	12

Memorial	40	49	51	45	43	45	73	78	78	79	84	90	96
Others	3	4	8	5	6	7	17	18	20	20	27	31	38
Annual attendance, thsd.	301,1	472,6	446,4	436,2	616,2	730,1	705,1	993,7	1100,9	1065,8	1335,9	1674,9	1910,0
Number of excursions	11837	15472	14875	20369	23022	27336	26696	33018	35850	39595	47676	51339	58274
Number of exhibitions	366	429	556	549	608	617	686	664	710	851	919	1008	1076

Notice: 2009 includes also data of National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia. Data from 2011 includes data on separate museums

Table 19 c: Data on cultural participation in Georgia, 2006-2017

Professional Theatres												
												unit
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total number of theatres	46	46	45	42	44	45	44	48	49	49	49	49
of which:												
opera and ballet	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
drama, musical comedy and miniatures	36	35	35	32	35	35	34	37	38	38	38	38
children and youth	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
puppet	6	7	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7
Number of seat in the hall, thsd (Includes rented)	14,2	13,8	13,5	12,7	12,8	12,4	12,5	13,3	14,5	13,7	16,0	15,9
Number of performances	2919	3458	3134	3711	3216	3654	3514	3871	4433	4724	4679	4827
o.w. Number of performances outside main scene	169	171	115	135	154	150	150	183	181	203	252	302
Annual attendance, thsd.	343,6	437,8	394,3	468,6	359,9	404,2	353,7	433,9	486,9	554,5	601,8	576,8
Average attendance per one performance	118	127	126	126	112	111	101	112	110	117	129	119
Number of performances during tours abroad	78	84	28	41	43	54	90	116	142	135	160	203

Table 19 d: Data on cultural participation in Georgia, 2006-2017

Data on Professional Theatres by Regions																								
	Number of performances, unit												Annual attendance, thsd											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Georgia, total	2919	3458	3134	3711	3216	3654	3514	3871	4433	4724	4679	4827	343,6	437,8	394,3	468,6	359,9	404,2	353,7	433,9	486,9	554,5	601,8	576,8
Tbilisi	1751	2152	1953	2294	2067	2342	2066	2384	2845	3102	3022	2916	209,8	307,9	273,7	354,6	254,5	302,4	223,2	269,5	293,6	350,9	394,1	340,6
Adjara AR	204	221	184	232	204	199	240	170	135	94	180	278	19,2	18,6	19,0	22,1	20,7	20,1	19,0	25,4	20,9	18,0	21,1	30,6
Imereti	443	469	390	391	410	460	519	614	649	630	620	648	42,1	46,3	25,5	28,1	28,2	35,9	40,4	73,0	81,2	82,6	81,7	90,0
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	83	140	122	136	120	151	140	106	99	123	91	162	26,8	28,7	28,2	20,9	17,2	13,2	14,7	19,0	19,5	13,1	17,7	21,1
Samtskhe-Javakheti	157	177	229	287	180	233	225	280	284	298	265	301	13,5	14,2	17,2	18,6	21,2	18,2	15,7	20,7	20,0	20,0	16,0	22,6
The remaining regions*	281	299	256	371	235	269	324	317	421	477	501	522	32,3	22,2	30,7	24,4	18,1	14,4	40,8	26,3	51,7	69,9	71,2	72,0

There are some research studies and opinions on the monitoring of the participation of representatives of national minorities in the cultural life of the community, carried out by the Public Movement "Multinational Georgia" (<http://www.pmmg.info>). One of the recent efforts is the Alternative Report on Implementation of the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe on the Protection of National Minorities, but this report has not been published yet. No other information is currently available.

8.2.2 Policies and programmes

Before the ``Culture Strategy 2025``, established in 2016, there was no clear coordinated or strategically developed governmental programme for the promotion of participation in cultural life, no state policy for extended civil participation, civic belonging, or development / solidarity in the civic community.

However, there are some projects financed from the Presidential Fund and arranged by the Youth Department of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. These projects are partially aimed at developing solidarity in the civic community, e.g. the annual project PATRIOT (which was introduced for the first time in 2005) involves the integration of youth from various regions in summer camps; it also facilitates intercultural dialogue between representatives of different nationalities residing in Georgia and with foreign student groups, namely from the Ukraine.

There are also some initiatives to promote the sale and distribution of season tickets by Zachariah Paliashvili State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet and project "Dmanisi" of the National Museum – which is a summer camp for children on archeology.

Some activities organised by the state could be considered as promoting participation in cultural life e.g.:

- the systematic organisation of public holidays and concerts tied to political events such as the visits by the President of the USA, President of Ukraine, President of Latvia etc;
- national holidays such as the Day of Independence on 26 May, Rose Revolution Anniversary, New Year etc.;
- municipal and local holidays established during the socialist period ("Tbilisoba"), and new ones organised on the Rustaveli Avenue initiated by the Service for Education and Culture of Tbilisi Municipality in 2005.

These events form part of the regular cultural policy framework as they are financed from the reserve funds of the President and the government.

For the purposes of facilitation of active involvement in society, particularly youth in the field of protection of national heritage, the National Agency of Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia carries out the following programmes:

- Archeology – The journey from finding artifacts to their restoration;
- Methods of one of the first branches of craftsmanship;
- How our ancestors lived – history of their garments, jewelry, things used in daily life and weaponry;
- From the Pagan Times to Christianity - touring through the ancient capital of Georgia-Mtskheta; and
- History of Art- general introductory course about worldwide recognised archaeological, ceramic and photographic masterpieces.

To involve the public, in particular youth, in cultural life, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia have launched a joint project "The Field Trip to Theatres" in January 2015. The large-scale project of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia is aimed at getting school students interested in theatre. In the frames of the Project, all school-age children throughout Georgia will be able to visit theatres to examine the stage and technical spaces. The school students will learn about the theatre's history and archives; they will attend rehearsals, meet with theatre directors and actors and will even enjoy a 50% discount on tickets. In the

first phase the project involves 11 theatres subordinated to the Ministry. Step by step, the intention is to involve all Georgian theatres

``The Culture Strategy 2025`` has specified the areas "Raising awareness" and "Promoting public access to culture".

In 2015-2016, the state budget spent on promotion of cultural life of regions: in 2015 -13,578,357 GEL, in 2016 (plan) - 13,258,800 GEL; 37 legal entities of public law carried out more than 6,000 activities and attracted the audience of more than 200,000 people.

Implemented in 2015-2016:

- Regional festivals
- Promotion of regional theaters
- "Live Books"
- "Movie in Regions"
- "Movie at School"
- Tours of state theaters and musical centers in the regions
- Exhibitions in regions
- Promoting cultural life in the villages near the separating line of the administrative border

In 2017, the following programs were implemented in the strategic area "Raising awareness":

- "Befriend the Heritage" - 100 members
- European Heritage Days - 17 municipalities, up to 2000 participants
- 100th Anniversary of Tbilisi Conservatoire - 4 conferences, 1 festival and 300 concerts
- "Night in Museum" - 74 museums, 53,883 visitors
- The Film Forum "See for the First Time in Bakuriani" for film experts, journalists and students
- 17 anniversary events (parties, publications, concerts):
 - Nicholas Baratashvili's Anniversary Year with UNESCO's support
 - Events dedicated to Ilia Chavchavadze's anniversary.
- "25 Years of Independence – Georgian Cinematography" – study of the 25 years history of film industry
- Over 60 publications, editions, albums
- 48 national and international festivals held
- Performances in regional theaters - 17
- Theater tours in regions - 44
- Concerts of folk ensembles - 59
- Music concerts - 70

In 2017 in the strategic area "Development of Cultural Infrastructure and Facilitating Public Access to Culture" the following was implemented:

Integration of persons with disabilities

- Project "Inclusive Education in Georgian Museums", 370 participants
- 10 projects involving 209 persons with disabilities - exhibitions, performances, concerts and other cultural events

Promoting ethnic minorities

- 13 projects
- 15 events within the framework of the program "Diverse Georgia".

Activities in the regions along the separating line of the administrative border (Rukhi, Anaklia, Orsantia, Nikozi, Ditsi)

- Meeting with 9 writers
- 2 performances

- 5 film screenings

Promoting the involvement of internally displaced persons in the cultural life

Promotion of operation of 12 art schools in the areas of compact settlements of IDPs is underway. In these schools, 69 teachers are employed and 700 pupils are studying; Various circles are functioning in schools: felting, ceramics, painting, knitting, folk instruments and more.

8.3 Arts and cultural education

8.3.4 Higher arts education and professional training

Cycles of Higher Education

The higher education system in Georgia consists of three cycles:

- First cycle – Bachelor's Degree (240 credits);
- Second cycle – Master's Degree (120 credits); and
- Third cycle – Doctor's Degree (180 credits).

Within the first cycle programme leading to the degree of Certified Specialist, the credits awarded are 120-180.

Higher Education Institutions

The following are the higher education institutions in Georgia:

- College – higher education institution implementing professional higher educational programme or / and only the first cycle programmes – Bachelor programmes;
- Teaching University – higher education institution implementing higher educational programmes (except for doctoral programmes). It is required to provide the second cycle – Master educational programmes; and
- University – higher education institution implementing educational programmes of all the three cycles of higher academic education.

Quality Assurance

External quality assurance in Georgia is carried out through an accreditation process which is conducted by the National Education Accreditation Centre <http://nea.ge/Eng/DefaultEng.aspx>

The state recognises the qualification documents issued only by an accredited or equalised thereto higher education institution. Today there are 12 universities and professional schools in Georgia:

- 5 universities dedicated to art;
- 3 specialised colleges of art;
- 3 general universities in which there are centres or faculties of arts; and
- 2 private institutions in which there are centres or faculties of arts.

In May 2005, Georgia acceded to the Bologna process. The new ***Law of Georgia on Higher Education*** binds the institutes of higher education of Georgia to pursue the main priorities of the Bologna process, such as transferring to the three-step system of higher education, quality assurance and accreditation, European Credits Transfers and Storage (ECTS) system, mobility, involvement of students in the decision-making process, compatibility of curricula with the European system etc.

Since 2005, a new model entitled "Money Follows a Student" has been in operation. Two phases of institutional accreditation have also been carried out under the Universal National Examination system, which has secured assessment of entrants by the unified methods and elimination of corruption in this sphere. The cooperation of the Ministry of Education and Sciences with the civil community is in progress.

Under **Order N 407** of the Minister of Education and Sciences of Georgia of May 3, 2006 was established the national team for support of the Bologna process. The goal of this team is to set the concrete objectives for the effective implementation of the reforms under the Bologna process in Georgia and to promote the activities determined within the Bologna process. Two members of this team are representatives of the institution of higher art education.

On April 3-5, 2006 under the support and financing of the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Georgia at Shota Rustaveli State University of Theatre and Film was carried out ELIA regional conference – The Higher Art Education and Bologna. The conference was attended by the representatives of various institutes of higher art education. This conference was a significant contribution in making the significant changes in the institutes of higher art education in the light of the Bologna process.

In the autumn semester of 2006, several higher education institutions in Georgia introduced performance based indicators / targets, according to the Bologna process. As the new **Law on Higher Education** is not fully operational till 2007, there will be some universities adopting the quality management systems at a later date.

Among the institutes of higher art education Tbilisi Vano Sarajishvili State Conservatory and Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts have been transferred to the three-step system of education. In 2005-2006 was introduced the ECTS system as well. At Tbilisi Vano Sarajishvili State Conservatory 23 curricula are built on the credit system and at Tbilisi State Academy of Arts – 24 curricula. In 2006 in both institutes a new form of the Transcript to Diploma was issued to the graduates. This form was approved under **Order N 149-e of the Minister of Education and Sciences of Georgia (05.04.05) On Approval of the Form for Transcript of the Higher Education State Certificate – Diploma.**

Shota Rustaveli State University of Theatre and Film has also been transferred to the tree-step system of higher education. For the University students of the first and second years has been introduced the ECTS system, 114 curricula is built on the credit system. Consequently, at this University the transcripts of diploma will be issued in 2006-2007.

The full reform of education is an urgent and necessary process. However, the ongoing reform of education initiated by the Ministry of Education and Science cannot be defined as adequate. The methodology of transition from the Soviet academic system of education to a new system is underdeveloped; the proposed educational system for culture is inadequate and eclectic; and there is a manifest lack of co-ordination of the respective ministries. In spite of the general declaration of priorities of the Bologna process, the system of reorganisation of art institutions is inclined towards unification, but not diversification.

In 2007, the **Law on Higher Vocational Education** was adopted which creates the conditions for development of the higher educational system in line of specialties attributed to the practical qualifications. The higher vocational education in Georgia is divided into artisan and artist education, where the artisan education covers the applied specialties and artist education – the art specialties.

The first strategic area of the ``Culture Strategy 2025``, adopted in 2016, is devoted to the raising awareness and education issues:

``Chapter II: Strategic Goals

1. Awareness Raising and Education

Goal: Culture and creativity is integrated across all levels of the education system and the public is aware of its importance.

1.1. Objective: Policymakers, cultural professionals, key stakeholders, representatives of other sectors and the general public fully acknowledge the importance of culture and creativity and its role in the country's sustainable development and social well-being.

Tasks:

- Plan public communication strategy and create appropriate instruments for its implementation in order to raise public awareness regarding the innovative interpretation and representation of the role of culture and creativity, in order to develop necessary audiences (e.g. awareness raising programmes for various target groups and stakeholders focused on developing creative thinking and innovative approaches, teaching of strategic planning, information sharing about creative incubators and start-ups and the role of creative industries, etc.);
- Conduct regular dialogue, hold consultations, promote international best practices and success stories with key stakeholders concerning the importance of culture and its role in sustainable development and social well-being;
- Support the media in highlighting cultural processes countrywide and encourage the development of new media tools which have cultural focus (a culture channel, journal, newspaper, web-pages, etc.);
- Promote the development of training programmes and other relevant initiatives (e.g. awareness-raising campaigns, etc.) for cultural journalist;
- Encourage volunteering in the cultural sector as a form of civic engagement and as an important instrument for personal growth.

1.2. Objective: Culture and creativity constitute an integral part of formal pre-school, general and of non-formal education. They develop creative skills and enhance interest towards culture among children and youth.

Tasks:

- Implement systemic legislative reform of the culture education, among them arts education, and elaborate consequent legal and regulatory mechanisms for culture/arts education as part of the general education system, while taking in consideration the specifics and needs of the sector.
- Integrate culture in pre-school education programmes and encourage the development of creative skills in children attending pre-school establishments;
- Increase the number and quality of culture and arts lessons in schools of general education. Support the integration of culture and creativity into the school educational system through creating stable professional learning and training systems for teachers (develop curricula, refine study and other materials in collaboration with relevant institutions of higher education; integrate innovative and creative approaches in the teaching process);
- Develop comprehensive out-of-school culture education system, including arts education: plan, develop and monitor application of standards (concerning subjects, professional activities, study environment, evaluation, etc.) for out-of-school culture/arts education; determine the status of the tutor working in out-of-school arts education institutions, set their certification guidelines, develop the ranking system of remuneration, etc.;
- With a view to establishing a diverse educational environment and building audiences for the cultural sector, facilitate collaboration between tutors and artists, cultural institutions and organisations within the framework of curricular and extra-curricular programmes (e.g. introduce subscriber/voucher procedures with regard to concerts, theatre and opera performances, exhibitions; organise lectures and shows, participate in amateur companies, etc.).
- Ensure youth and child participation in the cultural and creative activities by means of developing youth cultural centres, summer schools, camps, etc. considering Child Care Standards;
- Based on needs analysis, provide conditions for on-site residences for students in out-of-school arts education institutions in order to ensure sustainability of arts education;
- Plan awards and scholarship schemes, grant programmes, etc. in schools (general formal, out-of-school education) for students and tutors to encourage innovation and creativity;
- Support the development of libraries in school and out-of-school educational institutions (e.g. provide vouchers for purchasing books, computers, audio and video technologies etc.).

1.3. Objective: Higher and vocational educational institutions produce highly qualified professionals for culture and other related fields, create interdisciplinary programmes for students studying culture, technologies, business and other areas and develop academic research in collaboration with research institutions.

Tasks:

- Carry out the legislative reform of the system of culture education, including arts education, and consequently, update legal and regulatory framework of higher and vocational education systems, while taking the specifics of

the sector into consideration. Improve related teaching standards, update and enhance the qualification framework of higher and vocational education according to the demands of the contemporary market;

- Improve the quality of the programmes containing subjects related to culture by introducing innovative teaching methodologies and an interdisciplinary approach and by providing manuals, additional study materials and study equipment considering international standards and the latest trends;
- Initiate and facilitate interdisciplinary programmes and projects related to culture, technologies, business and other likely disciplines within and among the institutions of higher education;
- Develop funding instruments with a view to meeting market demand for less-available specialisations, revitalising less-demanded specialisations and also improving access to these programmes, (e.g. expand the list of accredited bachelor degree programmes which are subsidised by the State, enhance the list of prioritised master degree programmes by adding subjects concerned with cultural studies, increase the annual share of State grants directed towards these programmes; finance doctoral programmes of cultural studies etc.);
- Enhance the quality of existing specialisations and related study programmes, particularly unmarketable specializations and the specializations with a lack of qualified professionals (e.g.: cultural managers, curators, librarians, archivists, sound engineers, conservator-restorers, experts on cultural valuables, national costume experts, embroiderers, museum exposition managers, specialists of graphic print, cultural tour and museum guides, etc.);
- Support the development of research institutions of the culture sector by encouraging contemporary research practice, international research initiatives and employing other instruments;
- Develop funding schemes for student research projects and introduce innovative, creative and contemporary academic research practices at all levels of higher education;
- Support the creation and development of student halls of residence at the institutions of culture/arts education in order to increase access to education for local and international students;
- Develop summer schools, residency programmes, scientific and research laboratories, support student and academic staff mobility and international exchange educational programmes and create special funds/programme supporting studying abroad in order to internationalize cultural and arts education;
- Empower study programmes and encourage student engagement in cultural processes by means of strengthening partnerships which involve higher and vocational educational institutions, cultural professionals, cultural organisations and the business sector, both at national and international level;
- Provide support mechanisms, such as awards and scholarship schemes, competitions, grant programmes for the students of higher and vocational educational programmes, amongst them doctoral students, and lecturers;
- Having set the goal of providing opportunities for internship, apprenticeship and work practice for students, strengthen partnerships between universities, cultural establishments, creative industries and the business sector and create incentives for the businesses by developing appropriate support mechanisms (creative vouchers, awards, etc.);
- Support the development and modernisation of libraries associated with institutions of higher education, encourage their integration into international library databases, in order to improve and internationalise learning and research experience.

1.4. Objective: Professional training and life-long learning programmes fully meet the requirements of the contemporary labour market and contribute to the increasing competitiveness of cultural professionals.

Tasks:

- Based on needs analysis, elaborate professional development system, capacity building and training programmes in project writing, fund-raising, audience development, marketing, foreign language skills, training of trainers, etc. for workers of cultural sector, artists and tutor-instructors (trainers) and improve existing programmes by taking into account the latest trends, innovations, new technologies;
- Establish and develop a Legal Entity of Public Law - Cultural Learning Centre, in order to upgrade the national level of professional knowledge and managerial skills within the field of culture and increase its capacity of local and international competitiveness;
- Organise special programmes, including local and international exchange programmes in order to guarantee access to existing scientific and technical experience and promote international professional collaboration for workers of the cultural sector;

- Facilitate professional training of tutors of cultural studies at leading educational institutions.

The interagency working group was established with the aim of improving the arts education; the following is being developed:

- Art and Culture Education Roadmap and Action Plan
- Study of Out-of-School Arts Education Institutions and Action Plan.

In the frames of the grant programme, 3 innovation laboratories will also be created with the involvement of the private sector. The purpose of creation of innovation laboratories is to perform practice-oriented teaching at the universities and to establish a platform for closer cooperation between private businesses and educational institutions. Innovation labs will be also established in mobile applications, computer games, as well as computer graphics and visual effects direction.

- the winner in creative direction is the Academy of Fine Arts;
- the formation of the innovation laboratory involves the private sector;
- the winners in the computer games direction to create the innovation laboratory were jointly announced as Ilia's State University and Storm Bringer Studios;
- the winner in the creation of the innovation laboratory in computer graphics and visual effects was the joint project of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs and companies Easysoft, CG Lab; and
- the winner in creation of the innovation lab in mobile applications was the joint project of the Georgian-American University, Leavingstone and Geocell.

See: <http://www.economy.ge/ge/media/news/saqartvelos-inovaciebis-da-teqnologiebis-saagentom-sagranto-konkursis-gamarjvebulebi-gamoavlina>

8.3.5 Basic out-of-school arts and cultural education

In the reform process of higher and secondary education, there is a system of school arts and music schools which provides continuing education for children with appropriate talent. According to 2005 data, there are 258 of these schools in Georgia.

According to the new national curriculum for 2011-2016 a new optional subject – "World Culture" is being taught at the intermediary stage of public schools.

Under the initiative of the National Curriculum and Assessment Centre of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, teachers of world history in all 550 schools have passed training on the methodology of teaching of a new subject and on substantive matters.

The goal of teaching of world culture is: to form a positive attitude of students towards cultural diversity and development of successful communication and tolerance in the diversified cultural sphere and so on (see <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=2997&lang=geo>).

Within the framework of the ``Culture Strategy 2025``, promotion of children's integration was introduced in 2016-2017:

- Programs of the Education Department of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia - 2000 children.
- Non-formal education programs of the Georgian National Museum - 2000 adults, about 500 persons with disabilities.
- Otia Ioseliani's Sunday School in Tskaltubo - up to 200 pupils.

8.4 Amateur arts, cultural associations and civil initiatives

8.4.1 Amateur arts and folk culture

The amateur arts in Georgia are divided into two groups: a) folklore and b) all other art-forms. There is a strong affection among the population for folk songs and dances in which Georgians hold great pride. Folk ensembles, in particular, of vocalists, are plentiful throughout Georgia. The culture of preservation, study and development of folklore in Georgia has been raised to the professional level. Moreover, the Georgian vocal polyphony of folksongs and chorals is regarded as important at the international level. Consequently, many villages and towns have their own folk ensembles, which reflects the diversity of Georgian music folklore and, on the other hand, supports continued interest in the training of young people in this field. Large ensembles often have groups for young people where the future generations of singers are encouraged. Folklore ensembles are also popular among the national minorities.

The crafts sector is not as widely developed. In comparison with the performing arts, the craft field requires special programmes of support for preservation and maintenance. This is especially important against the background of the critical socio-economic situation in the countryside where ceramics, carpet weaving, embroidery etc. are practiced.

All other types of amateur arts are less popular than folklore and are mainly urban based (e.g. people's theatre and fine arts). Recently groups for teenagers in large cities have become more involved in modern genres of amateur art related to new technologies and social development – multimedia, graffiti, e-music. This subculture has yet been developed does not receive state support, though some municipal initiatives related to mass culture are touching on this type of amateur art, although only in the performing arts sector.

After the Rose Revolution, the interest of the state in folklore has increased greatly, whereby many projects in this sphere are organised and funded. The most significant are: the International Folklore Festival "Chveneburi", ART GENE, and the Presidential Programme "National Voice".

Local cultures in a globalising world are facing certain risks. In Georgia, however, there are very strong traditions of ethnographic and folk culture, resulting in a high percentage of people who develop folklore, both on an amateur and professional level. The government support in this area is high and is being implemented through the National Folklore Centre.

In 2004, a State Folklore Centre was created as a legal entity of public law under the ministry of Culture and Cultural Heritage. The Centre is commissioned with and devoted to restoration and demonstration of the present vital ethno culture and life. The main mission of the Centre is to research, preserve, develop and popularise the non-material cultural heritage. The Centre implements the state folklore policy nationwide and promotes the restoration of broken ties between the villages, regions, districts and the central authorities.

The archive of the State Folklore Centre has been created (the notes of songs and chants, samples of oral folk arts, folk plays, manuscripts of famous scientists and ethnic music experts, biographies and photos of well-known conductors and singers, albums of photos of festivals and fests have been registered and stocked) a small part of which has been published and the greater part is being processed.

Since 2006, the presidential national programme for folklore promotion has been implemented with the following goals:

- to maintain folk art in Georgia, to restore its ancient roots;
- establishment, protection and popularisation of folk art authenticity;
- studying, collecting and recording of musical traditions in regions and scientific research of the musical repertoire. Creation of the archive material of the 21st century on the basis of the researched materials;
- display of the unknown samples of folk art, awakening interests in folk creativity in the youth and popularisation of folk verses;
- promotion of traditional crafts; and

- promotion of the national cultural treasury to foreign audiences and Georgian diaspora.

For systematisation and quality enhancement of the folklore activity in Georgia, a study of the creative level of active folk collectives and the creation of a database has been commenced in 2011 - "Certification of Folklore Ensembles".

Certification will promote the folklore ensembles to search for state support.

In the framework of the programme, the following activities have been implemented:

- study of folklore samples

In 2007, in the framework of the project "Mobile Voice Recording Studio and Video Studio" in the regions of Georgia, up to 500 unique samples of ancient folklore was recorded. The mobile voice recording studio, which is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, continues its research work of recording, restoration and popularisation of unknown samples of folklore;

In the framework of the electronic version of the self-teaching guide of Georgian folk song in 2007, the studio recording of Georgian folk songs was produced. It also involved the release of a self-teaching guide on DVD for teaching polyphonic singing.

In the framework of the project of releasing a DVD of unique choreographic materials, a DVD of authentic folk dances showing performances by song and dance ensembles and individual performers of the past century was recorded. The DVD is directed at choreographers, choreologists and dancers.

The project "Computerisation of Archive Records and Georgian Collection of Wax Cylinders" was implemented in 2007-2009 and provided the transfer of unique Georgian folk song stored in the record library of the National Central Archive of Georgia to digital format.

- Folklore expeditions

The project "Folklore Expeditions in Regions of Georgia and In Artvin Region of the Republic of Turkey" was implemented in 2007-2010 and aimed at the search, storage, study and popularisation of unknown folklore materials in the regions.

In the framework of the project, the folklore expeditions were conducted in Ajara, Zemo Svaneti, Kakheti, Guria and Artvin Region. The mobile voice recording studio operated in the regions of Georgia and the small group of Georgians living in Artvin (Turkey) have recorded the folk music samples, searched and restored the lost folk songs and introduced them to various folklore collectives.

- Evenings with...

In the framework of the project "Evenings with ..." in 2006-2010, at Tbilisi Central Concert Hall, a jubilee concert was held, devoted to the 125th anniversary of the National Folk Song and Dance Ensemble of Georgia "Erisioni"; the city of Batumi hosted concerts of I. Sukhishvili and N. Ramishvili Georgian National Ballet company; and evenings devoted to the creative work of the oldest representatives of folk poetry and folklore Islam Pilpani, Polikarpe Khubulaba, Andro Simashvili and in memory of MAro Tarkhnishvili.

- Promotion and rewarding of folklore artists

Since 2008 a yearly ceremony is held to award the winners of the National Folklore Reward. The Commission for granting the national folklore reward was created at the National Folklore Centre of Georgia, which determines the fields and priorities. The winners receive money, awards and diplomas.

- Festivals

The festival – "Art-Gen" is held annually since 2003 and its main purpose is promoting samples of folklore and various old traditions, folk handicraft in the regions of our country and widening knowledge among the general public.

In the framework of the project for the study of the creative work of the folklore groups in the regions there have been expeditions, workshops and master-classes of applied art. The final event is held in Tbilisi.

- Educational projects:

Master classes for choreographers and Georgian folk song performers in 2007-2010 were led by famous choreographers and specialists of Georgian ethno music of Tbilisi State Conservatory. The educational booklet "Georgian Folk Song and Performance" was also produced.

Summer Schools of Folk Handicraft (2008-2010) aimed at popularisation of folk handicraft were also held.

In framework of a project in the Oni Region a two-month training programme was held on Georgian felt production.

In the six summer schools of folk handicraft, experienced masters taught young people the technologies related to folk handicraft: in Mestia region – woodcarving and Svan hat making, in Mtskheta and Sachkhere regions – Georgian felt preparation, in Akhaltsikhe region – Meskh carpet weaving, in Tserovani settlement the young refugees from Samachablo have learned woodcarving.

The state budget expenditures in the field of folklore amounted to:

In 2015 (fact) - 4,203,968 GEL; in 2016 (plan) - 3,970,000 GEL.

The staff employed in 5 legal entities of public law comprised 346 persons with the average salary of 797 GEL.

In 2016 the State Folklore Center carried out:

- The National Folklore Festival
- Representation in 15 municipalities and a choirmaster school
- 15 expeditions in Georgia, 1 expedition abroad
- Georgian Folk Song Festival "Nikozi 2015"
- "Svan Zari" - an element of intangible cultural heritage
- Folk poetry event "The Verse Not To Be Lost"
- Digitalization of 8000 traditional handwritten folk chorales

In 2016 four state folk ensembles ("Sukhishvilebi", "Erisioni", "Rustavi", "Basiani") conducted:

- 142 concerts
- 121 tours
- 345,150 viewers and listeners.

8.4.2 Cultural houses and community cultural clubs

Within the last 25 years the network of former cultural houses and clubs of the Soviet period has been trimmed down. In general, these centres of culture have been privatised and only a small number have preserved their main profile. Unfortunately no statistical data is available as these cultural houses and clubs were always under the control of the regional or municipal authorities, which provide no detailed reports on cultural data. Nevertheless, to some extent these cultural centres have been replaced with new associations and unions.

8.4.3 Associations of citizens, advocacy groups, NGOs and advisory panels

In general, society in Georgia is concerned with the state of the cultural heritage and the ethical issues are considered mainly in this context. As an example, we can provide an ambiguous attitude to the art works of the Soviet époque: the monuments, bas-reliefs and sometimes whole buildings have been destroyed because of the ideological aspect but not because they had no historical value. Many prominent works which had historical value were not kept in the museums after dissembling, but were destroyed instead. Mass debates are held on the theme of restoration of the cultural heritage, especially of the integrity and preservation of historical parts of Tbilisi, Batumi, Signaghi, and Kutaisi (Programme for Preservation of Historic Cities and Towns). The main problem is the political state of affairs of those programmes, distribution of budgetary funds, quality of executed works (both conceptual-intellectual and material-technical) as well as the ethical nature of the process of the inappropriate "restoration" of monuments and their function detrimental to their identity (e.g. the Bagrath's Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710). WHC10/34.COM/7B.Add –gv. 149-154 ix.: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/34COM/documents>.

Such issues are dealt by professional organisations: the ICOMOS National Committee, the International Centre of Culture and Arts, AIRL, G. Chubinashvili Institute of Art History, Modern Group, etc. Several public organisations, such as Tbilisi Amkari, respond actively to any architectural changes in Tbilisi (they hold protest meetings, TV debates and mass media activities).

Such debates are mainly supported by foreign foundations (Boell's Fund, British Council) and arranged by professional NGOs. One of the important events was the International Conference IDENTITY AND SPIRIT OF OLD TBILISI (4-6 June 2010) <http://www.gaccgeorgia.org/Channel%20Istoriali.html>.

Georgia has a strong non-governmental sector in the human rights sphere (Young Lawyers Association, Former Political Prisoners' Union and so on). However, the human rights in the culture sphere have not yet become an important part of the public debates. For example: in 2001, there was an attempt to create a large union-coalition NGO: "The Cultural Front", which would elaborate and introduce an *Ethical Code* in the sphere of cultural activity, copyright protection, relations of a free-lance artist with an employer etc. In spite of the great enthusiasm of the founders, the coalition was not well organised. The same may be said about trade unions in the sphere of culture - three of them were founded in the post-soviet period and two still exist formally - but they have no actual results to show for their activities. An example of an effective group is the Georgian Authors' Union, which carries out the legal activity in copyright protection.

Local authorities lacking legislative and financial levers for implementation of their own cultural policy instead implement the cultural policy of the national government.

To further the centralisation of culture management in the regions, so called centres of culture (with the legal status of LEPL) were created. Institutions of culture (theatres, clubs, museums, libraries, centres and houses of culture, art and music schools) subordinate to the local administrations and self-governments are united in the so called centres of culture – the umbrella organisations with specific status and state-municipal financing.

The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection promote initiatives in cultural animation in the regions in the framework of the culture support programme; the programme provides support for traditional folk holidays, restoration and popularisation of national holidays, and promotion of tourism.

Against the common grave social background and following the disorganisation of the old soviet infrastructure, it is very important to support the centres of culture of the regions.

2017

Civil Society of Georgia

Legislation

An important component of cultural self-expression is the active and professional vision, activity and assessment by the NGO sector. Nevertheless, the Georgian NGO sector in the field of culture is facing challenges that have already been overcome by nongovernmental organizations working in other spheres.

- The legislative environment of non-profit organizations is quite liberal and does not inhibit the creation and functioning of civil society organizations.
- The applicable legislation of Georgia does not fully comply with the international standards and best practices. Significant problems are in terms of supporting the development of the NGO sector.

The general legislation that regulates CSO's activities:

- **Constitution of Georgia**, 24/08/1995 – The Constitution of Georgia guarantees the right of free association. The Constitution guarantees the right of a person to create or unify into a public association, including trade union; suspension and prohibition of public association activities can only be made in the cases specified by the Organic Law only under the Court order;
- **Organic Law "On Suspension and Prohibition of Activities of Public Unions"** 14/11/1997/1103 / determines the issues of suspension and prohibition of activities of these associations;
- **The Civil Code of Georgia**, 1997 (substantially amended in 2006). The Civil Code defines organizational and legal form and registration procedures of public organizations; the issues related to registration of certain types of public organizations are regulated by special laws;
- **Law of Georgia on Grants**; June 28, 1996 N 331 - IIs (12.07.2013 N 819); The law regulates the legal grounds of issue and receipt of main source of funding of CSOs – the grant.
- **Law on State Support for Children and Youth Organizations**, 15/02/2001/5/ - The law distinguishes children and youth organizations, provides relevant definitions and creates a list of such organizations subject to the state support.
- **Law on Artists and Art Unions**, 08/06/1999/2059/ determines the rules for the creation and operation of creative ties;
- **The Tax Code**, 2004 determines the mechanisms of taxation of the activities carried out by the civil organizations as well as granting the status of a charitable organization. Since CSOs are not restricted to carrying out the type of activity (including entrepreneurial activities), other legislation of Georgia is also applied to them. For example, if civil organizations implement the activity subject to licensing the licensing legislation shall be applied.
- **Law on Registration Fee** 24/06/2004 defines the amount of state registration fee for public organizations;
- **The General Administrative Code** 25/06/1999 - determines the mechanisms for relations with administrative bodies. It is an important instrument in the implementation of monitoring type activities for CSOs;
- **Law on State Procurement**, 19/07/2010, LH, 39, defines legal, organizational and economic principles of procurement and enables public organizations to participate in state procurement;

Policy and strategic documents

- The Georgia Cultural Strategy document "Cultural Strategy 2025" provides the issues of cooperation with the civil sector; in particular, Section II, Chapter 3, Objective 3.2 provides as follows: "As a result of regular cooperation between the artists, the state, civil and private sectors, the effective decision-making and problem-solving methods have been introduced and quality of life improved".
- "Cultural Strategy 2025", Section II, Chapter 1 "Raising awareness and education", Chapter 2 "Access to Culture and Cultural Diversity", Chapter 3 "Relationship with Culture and Other Fields", refer to the cooperation with the civil sector.

- The Cultural Action Plan for the 2017-2018 does not specifically describe the projects for creation and distribution of cultural goods and services by the non-governmental sectors, in the line of culture public awareness campaign, as well as for promotion of arts and diversity of cultural expressions, and/or their development.
- The 2015 Memorandum has institutionalized the civil society participation in the field of culture and creation of the policies set out by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection to promote, create, distribute and access to the cultural goods and services.

Institutional development

- There is a wide range of civil society organizations on the background of the satisfactorily developed legislative base that support the civil society in Georgia. In addition, the non-governmental cultural sector is lacking financial resources that hinders its institutional development.
- In the broad range of Georgian public organizations, the share of nongovernmental sector in the field of culture is rather small, generally due to the low level of financing of culture, non-diversified sources, and as a result, dependence on the financial support of the state.
- In most cases, only the state and the governmental support may guarantee financial sustainability; consequently, the civil sector is passive and is in a holding pattern and lacking the initiative;
- The necessity of dependence on the state is due to the institutional underdevelopment of culture NGOs; on the background of a stable fall in the international funding of culture in case of termination of the state financing, some organizations have been abolished or reorganized.

Qualification and expert methods

- The majority of qualified managers and experts in the field of culture are represented in the nongovernmental sector; because of the underdevelopment of this sphere, most of the professionals are also employed with the state structures; in addition, they conduct monitoring, advocacy and expertise on behalf of NGOs.

Raising awareness

- The society, especially in regions, is provided with information about the international obligations taken by the state in the sphere of cultural self-expression, by the NGO representatives, namely, the members of the nongovernmental coalition "Diverse Georgia".

Infrastructure

- The NGO sector in the culture field does not have the appropriate infrastructure. Most of the organizations can rent offices, studios and so on, only in the frames of projects.

Cultural NGOs do not have targeted infrastructure support from the state.

There are no monitoring projects, assessment documents, and debates on the culture sector.

Promotion scope/Programs/Events

- The "Cultural Strategy 2025" includes general issues regarding cooperation with NGOs; however, the state in addition to the programs supporting thematic competitions and free projects, does not make adequate steps in the direction of creating the necessary environment for institutional development of the NGO sector. This is especially related to the lack of proper regulation of benefits and financing diversification issues.

State structures that have relevant programs and provide financial assistance to civil society organizations to implement projects in the field of culture, are:

- Ministry of Education and Science

- Ministry of Culture and Sport

The Ministries do not provide financial assistance to NGOs in the form of grants, but as service procurements.

State organizations issuing grants

- LEPL "Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation" <http://www.rustaveli.org.ge/>
- LEPL "Children and Youth Development Fund" <http://www.fondi.gov.ge/>
- LEPL "International Center for Education" <http://iec.gov.ge/>

Examples of good practice - Partnerships

Development of the policy document "Cultural Strategy 2025" together with the non-governmental sector (the practice of cooperation of 36 NGOs with the Ministry in the format of the Memorandum and Questionnaire). Protocols of work sessions: <https://tinyurl.com/yc882es3>

Various documents

<http://cultureandsports.gov.ge/CulturePoli/%E1%83%99%E1%83%A3%E1%83%9A%E1%83%A2%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1-%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A2%E1%83%A0%E1%83%90%E1%83%A2%E1%83%94%E1%83%92%E1%83%98%E1%83%98%E1%83%90.aspx?lang=ka-GE>

Documents developed by different groups of the society on culture policy prior to the development of "Cultural Strategy 2025":

<http://cultureandsports.gov.ge/CulturePoli/%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A2%E1%83%A0%E1%83%90%E1%83%A2%E1%83%94%E1%83%92%E1%83%98%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1-%E1%83%A8%E1%83%94%E1%83%9B%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A8%E1%83%90%E1%83%95%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1-%E1%83%9E%E1%83%A0%E1%83%9D%E1%83%AA%E1%83%94%E1%83%A1%E1%83%98/EventSideMenu/Regional-Meetings.aspx>

- The package of recommendations developed by the non-governmental coalition "Diverse Georgia" to implement the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expression`, Tbilisi, 2015. Project by YTA Union.
- `` Pilot Scheme for Monitoring Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions`` Tbilisi, 2017. Project by YTA Union. <http://www.culturaldiversitygeorgia.com/artdifferent/>

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<http://cultureandsports.gov.ge/CulturePoli/%E1%83%99%E1%83%A3%E1%83%9A%E1%83%A2%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1-%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A2%E1%83%A0%E1%83%90%E1%83%A2%E1%83%94%E1%83%92%E1%83%98%E1%83%98%E1%83%90.aspx?lang=en-US>
- Roadmap for Ensuring Equal Participation of People with Disabilities in Georgia's Cultural and Creative Life.
<http://mcs.gov.ge/getattachment/Public-Info/saministros-mier-shemushavebuli-strategiebi,-konce/kulturul-da-shemoqmedebit-ckhovrebashi-shshm-pirta.pdf.aspx>
- Intradepartmental Action Plan of Culture Strategy 2017-2018 <http://mcs.gov.ge/Public-Info/saministros-mier-shemushavebuli-strategiebi,-konce.aspx>

- Action Plan for Ensuring Equal Participation of People with Disabilities in Georgia's Cultural and Creative Life. <http://mcs.gov.ge/Public-Info/saministros-mier-shemushavebuli-strategiebi,-konce.aspx>
- 2017-2018 Interagency Action Plan for Implementation of the Culture Strategy

Published studies

- UNESCO CULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS / Georgia's Analytical and Technical Report, 2017. <https://www.culturepartnership.eu/upload/editor/2017/Policy%20Briefs/CDIS%20Georgia%20Analytical%20and%20Technical%20Report.pdf>
- DEVELOPING CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES IN GEORGIA by Cristina Farinha, 2017. <https://www.culturepartnership.eu/upload/editor/2017/Research/171116%20Creative%20Industries%20Report%20for%20Georgia.pdf>
<https://www.culturepartnership.eu/ge/article/creative-industries-study-for-georgia>
- DEVELOPING PERFORMING ARTS SECTOR IN GEORGIA by Iulia Popovici, 2017. <https://www.culturepartnership.eu/upload/editor/2017/Policy%20Briefs/170918%20Sub-Sector%20Report%20in%20Georgia%20FINAL.pdf>
<https://www.culturepartnership.eu/ge/article/sub-sector-report-geo>
- Film Post-Production in Georgia, SMEs Development and DCFTA in Georgia, EU4Business, Tbilisi, 2016. <http://enterprisegeorgia.gov.ge/files/document/02672c62765e34137de18bdd3a577bc1.pdf>
- Textile and Apparel in Georgia, SMEs Development and DCFTA in Georgia, EU4Business, Tbilisi, 2015. <http://enterprisegeorgia.gov.ge/files/document/761d0c17700bad76f2578e785e5b5eb6.pdf>
- "Recommendations Concerning the Implementation of the Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions". "Diverse Georgia – Civil Society Platform for Cultural Diversity" 2015, Tbilisi. By YTA Union <http://www.culturaldiversitygeorgia.com/ge/>

9.2 Key organisations and portals

Cultural policy making bodies

Parliament of Georgia / Committee for Education, Sciences, Culture and Sports

<http://www.parliament.ge/>

Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia (till August, 2018)

Ministry of Culture and Sport of Georgia

<http://www.cultureandsports.gov.ge/>

President's Administration of Georgia

<http://www.president.gov.ge>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<http://www.mfa.gov.ge>

Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (till August, 2018)

Ministry of Education, Science Culture and Sport of Georgia

<http://www.mes.gov.ge/>

National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia

<http://heritagesites.ge/>

Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia

<http://www.economy.ge>

Ministry of Finance of Georgia

<http://www.mof.ge/>

Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia

Architecture and Construction Inspection

<http://www.mrdi.gov.ge/>

Professional associations

Union of Architects of Georgia

<http://www.archunion.ge/>

V.GUNIA UNION OF YOUNG THEATRE ARTISTS – YTA UNION

<http://www.ytaunion.com>

Grant-giving bodies

Cartu Group-Cartu Bank

<http://www.cartubank.ge>

Open Society Georgia Foundation (Soros Foundation)
<http://www.osgf.ge>

Goethe Institute
<https://www.goethe.de/ins/ge/de/index.html>

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Representative Office in Georgia
<http://fes-caucasus.org/>

South Caucasus Regional Office of the Heinrich-Boll-Foundation
<https://ge.boell.org/>

British Council Georgia Office
<https://www.britishcouncil.ge/en>

Eurasia Partnership Foundation
<http://www.epfound.org/>

SOCO Foundation
<http://soco.ge>

Cultural research and statistics

State Department for Statistics of Georgia
<http://www.statistics.ge/?plang=1>

Georgian National Academy of Sciences (GNAS)
<http://science.org.ge/old/english.html>

G. Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation
http://www.gch-centre.ge/en/home_eng/

Georgian National Commission for UNESCO
<http://unesco.ge/>

ICOMOS Georgian national Committee (International Council on Monuments and Sites)
<https://www.icomos.org/risk/2001/geor2001.htm>

Centre for Archaeological Research, TransCaucasus Journal of Anthropological Archaeology
<http://members.tripod.com/centerarch>

Heritage & Modernity Association
<https://wiser.directory/organization/heritage-modernity-association/>

Stichting Caucasus Foundation (SCF)
<http://www.caucasusfoundation.ge>

Georgian Arts & Culture Centre
<http://www.gaccgeorgia.org>

Caucasian House- Centre for Cultural Relations of Georgia
<http://caucasianhouse.ge/en/>

Public Movement Multinational Georgia
<http://www.pmmg.org.ge/?lang=eng>

National Archives of Georgia
<http://www.archives.gov.ge/en>

Georgia
Archives
<https://www.georgiaarchives.org/>

Georgia Department of Archives & History
<http://www.galileo.usg.edu/scholar/databases/znah/?Welcome>

Culture / arts portals

Georgian National Museum
<http://www.museum.ge>

National Gallery of Georgia
http://museum.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=54

Georgian National Film Center
<http://www.gnfc.ge/?lang=eng>

Tbilisi State Academy of Arts
<http://art.edu.ge>

Tbilisi V. Sarajishvili State Conservatoire
<http://www.conservatoire.edu.ge/?lng=eng>

Centre for Traditional Polyphony of Tbilisi V. Sarajishvili State Conservatoire
<http://www.polyphony.ge>

Shota Rustaveli Georgian State University of Theatre and Cinema
<http://www.tafu.edu.ge>

Zachariah Paliashvili State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet
<http://www.opera.ge>

Folklore State Centre of Georgia
<http://folk.gov.ge/en>

Georgian National Ballet - Sukhishvili
<http://www.sukhishvili.com/>

Arts and Culture Centre
<http://www.gaccgeorgia.org>

New Art Union

<http://www.art.gov.ge/artists.php?medium=9&lang=En>

CAUCASUS ART

<https://www.artsy.net/gene/caucasus>

Internet Academy

<http://gesj.internet-academy.org.ge>

Georgian International Festival of Arts in honour of Michael Tumanishvili – "Gift"

<http://www.effe.eu/festival/georgian-international-festival-arts-gift-tbilisi-honor-mikhail-tumanishvili>

<https://www.facebook.com/giftfestival/photos/a.297027013762337/914131388718560/?type=1&theater>

Tbilisi International Film Festival

<http://www.tbilisifilmfestival.ge>

Eastern Promotion

<http://www.easternpromotion.com>

Tbilisi State Concert Hall

<http://www.tbilisiconcerthall.com/>

International Initiative for Georgian Cultural Studies

<https://www.gaccgeorgia.org/Symposium/index.html>

Tbilisi International Festival of Theatre

<http://www.tbilisiinternational.com/en/>

International Student Film Festival AMIRANI

http://www.tbilisifilmfestival.ge/index.php?lang=2&page=menu&l_menu=24&p=3&obj_id=500

Batumi International Art-House Film Festival

<http://www.biaff.org>

TOFUZI - International festival of animated films

Animation Development Fund

At JSC "Georgian Film"

<http://www.adf.ge>

The Cross-Border Cinema Culture (CBCC)

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/Regional/Kyiv/CBCC/Default_en.asp

National Filmography

<http://www.geocinema.ge>