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Enhancing Knowledge on Georgia's EU Integration among Ethnic Minorities

[KnowEU]

Project Reference: **611936-EPP-1-2019-1-GE-EPPJMO-PROJECT**

Action Type: **Jean Monnet Projects**

Project Duration: **2019-2021**

Project Website: jeanmonnet.csss.ge



Regional Workshops in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti, Georgia

- The KnowEU project continued its activities after a break caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, in summer 2021 a third phase was launched. Namely, three-day workshops were held with the Armenian and Azerbaijani civil activists, while the similar workshops with the Kist population was managed to be held in fall 2020. The first part of the workshops organized in summer 2021 took place in Kvemo Kartli, Marneuli. In particular, the youth gathered in community centers of the three different villages (Kasumlo, Sadakhlo, Kvemo Sarali) and shared their previous experiences related to civil activism, knowledge dissemination and importance of raising awareness of the local population regarding the European integration. Together with the project's participants, these

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Marneuli discussed the problems they encounter in the process of civic activism and talked about the challenges they face while trying to combat the spread of disinformation about the EU.



- The series of meetings continued in Akhaltsikhe, Samtskhe-Javakheti region. Similar to Kvemo Kartli workshops, besides the project participants, the local youth attended the meetings and spoke openly about the problems they face in getting formal or informal education. They have also



compiled a list of myths about the EU that are constantly circulating in the region and are perceived as truth by the public. Although the Armenian population in Samtskhe-Javakheti has specific problems, the workshop participants noted, that it is not substantially different from what they heard before in Marneuli. The challenges are mostly

common, as the language barrier in some cases significantly hinders the process of both education and integration. In this regard, the Kist youth living in Pankisi Gorge have less problems as they master the Georgian language from birth.

- At the workshops the project participants also worked on the development of a policy paper, which clearly describes the problems and needs of Armenian, Azerbaijani and Kist population residing in the respective regions and is intended for the policy-makers. At the final stage of the project, the representatives of the local self-government of all three target regions will get acquainted with the given policy document.



KnowEU Podcasts



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