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Enhancing Knowledge on Georgia's EU Integration among Ethnic Minorities

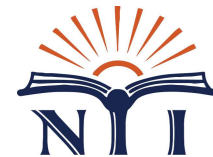
[KnowEU]

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

Action Type: **Jean Monnet Projects**

Project Duration: **2019-2021**

Project Website: jeanmonnet.css.ge



KnowEU Capstone Event in Batumi, Adjara

- On August 4-7, 2021 a concluding meeting of the Jean Monnet project KnowEU was



held in Adjara, Batumi. The meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the policy documents addressing the problems and needs of Azerbaijani, Armenian and Kist youth to the representatives of the local self-government bodies from the respective regions. The presentations were followed by lively discussions between the civil society activists and members of the local self-governments. Each day was dedicated to the discussion of problems of each target region. The policy documents, as well as the entire project vividly showed that while certain problems relate to the particular regions (e.g. lack of the Georgian language skills for Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti region), some problems united all

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on on some issues, while others remained open. In particular, the following initiatives were suggested:

1. Establishing information corners in different villages was named as an innovative and effective way to raise awareness about the EU. According to the activists and public officials, if there are corners in the villages that provide brochures, books, and information on the EU to the local people, it will significantly raise awareness among the population.
 2. It was also suggested to advocate for simplification of the grant application processes and criteria by the EU (or other donor organizations) as the current procedures are too hard for the ethnic minority representatives to understand or convey to. Their simplification by other donors has led to more involvement of the population in the application process and greater success in achieving certain results;
 3. In the context of raising awareness about the EU, the need for increasing the media activism was mentioned, which should convey information about the member states to the population in a simple and interesting language.
- One of the biggest outcomes of the KnowEU project is regarded to be increased potential of the involved regions in future collaboration. Namely, the activists have expressed willingness to conduct joint projects that would target all three regions and address the common problems. CSS agreed to facilitate this process in respect to networking with potential donors, reviewing grant application and have a general advisory function.



[KnowEU Policy Paper](#)

[KnowEU Podcasts](#)

One of the activities for the project participants was to develop short podcasts that would openly discuss Georgia's EU integration prospects, their attitudes to the issue, and the knowledge gained over the past few days. The video footage shows that the winter school has achieved its goal to change attitudes among the participants themselves. Also the winter school gave a good ground for the regional media to promote the prospects of proper coverage of information about EU in future.

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