

**19<sup>th</sup>** EUROPEAN WEEK of  
REGIONS and CITIES

11 - 14 OCT  
2021

*Together for Recovery*

## Regional Development Policy in Georgia

October 2021



#EURegionsWeek



## GEORGIA – Background Information and Administrative Division

- Area – 69,700 sq. km
- Population – 3.7 mln.
- Official language – Georgian
- Currency – Lari (GEL) 1 ₾ = 0.28 €
- National GDP – USD 15,9 Billion (2020)
- GDP Real Growth Rate – 3.5% (2021)
- GDP per Capita – USD 4 275 (2020)
- Inflation rate – 5.4% (2020)
- Unemployment rate – 18.5% (2020)





## Regional Development Policy

- ❑ Medium-term governmental documents:
  - Define main tasks, priorities and objectives of the regional development policy of Georgia.
  - Create a solid strategic framework for a balanced and sustainable socio-economic development
- ❑ The programmes are based on, and largely in line with, the **EU Cohesion Policy** experience of recent decades (aimed at the reduction of disparities between regions).
- ❑ Step forward to very complex and a higher standard planning of local and regional development and approximating such practices to the similar experiences of the EU

**2010-2017 Regional  
Development  
Strategy**

**Development  
Strategies of 9  
Regions**

**RDP 2015 – 2017**  
(around 3.7 mln. GEL)

**RDP 2018 – 2021**  
(around 17 bln. GEL)

**PIRDP 2020 – 2022**  
(63.75 mln. €)

## PIRDP

Overall objective of PIRDP

Create a favourable environment and promote balanced and sustainable socio-economic development of the four pilot regions through integrated territorial development initiatives and multilevel governance

PIRDPs Expected impact

Increased competitiveness

Increased social inclusiveness and delivery of public services

Decreased disparities between regions and between urban rural areas

PIRDPs Priority Areas

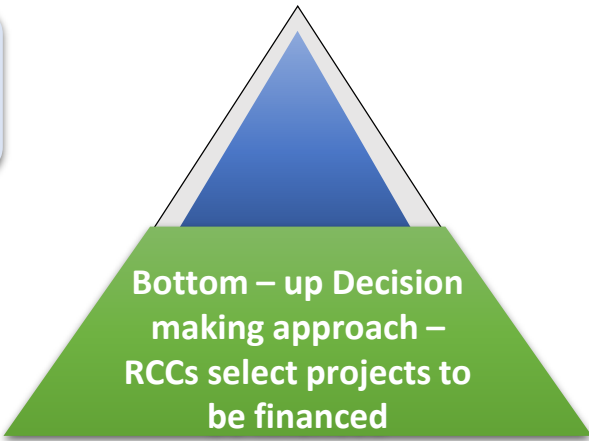
Urban renewal – Integrated actions in urban areas

Unique tourism potential

Improvement of competitiveness and support to innovations of SMEs

Integrated local development

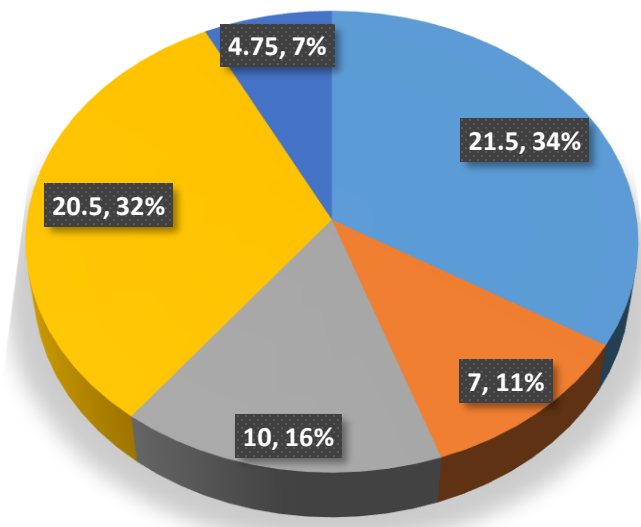
Technical support and capacity building of central and local administration



## PIRDP

Distribution of Resources among priorities

### Call for project proposals (205 million Gel)



**1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals (Target Municipalities – Infrastructure, 5 million Gel):**

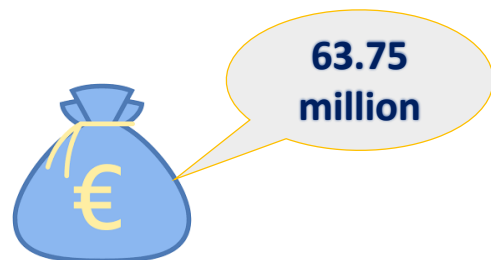
- 24 project applications received
- 11 projects approved and implemented

**2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals (Target Municipalities – Infrastructure 160 million Gel approximately; GoG Agencies – 40 million Gel):**

- 60 project applications received
- 47 project applications pre-selected for possible implementation

**3 GoG agencies selected for SME support programmes:**

- GITA (3 million Gel)
- Produce in Georgia (17 million Gel)
- Rural Development Agency (20 million Gel)





## Smart Specialization/S3

[Implementation status of TAKEWAYS](#) of High Level EC-GoG meeting (Brussels, 21 November, 2018)

### 1. Smart Specialization:

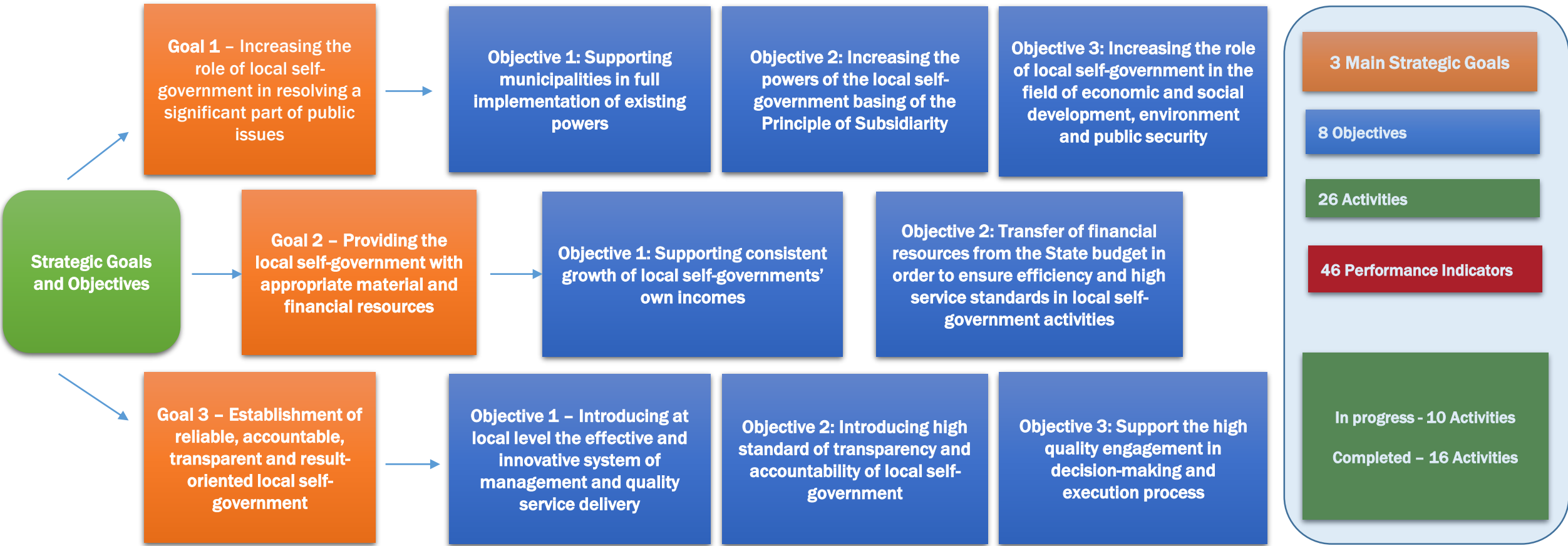
- ❑ **JRC and MRDI agreed on and launched official cooperation, with National and Regional S3 Teams established under MRDI coordination (2019)**
- ❑ **S3 National Team (NSST) established (2019)**
- ❑ **Imereti identified as the first Pilot Region for S3 strategy elaboration (2019)**
- ❑ **Mapping report/study on Imereti Region's Economic and Innovation potential** prepared with the JRC support, in cooperation with GEOSTAT, MRDI and NSST (August 2020)
- ❑ **Online Stakeholders' discussions** for identifying S3 strategy future development and implementation mechanisms held (Summer 2020)
  - Specific report prepared and shared by JRC experts (2021)*
- ❑ **Targeted workshops** for S3 stakeholders held (November/December 2020)
- ❑ **Preliminary Priority Domains (5+3)** for Imereti S3 Strategy revealed and agreed (2021)
- ❑ **Additional research and in-depth interviews** on preliminary priority domains ongoing (October-December 2021)
- ❑ Further steps and processes, including on **EDP**, to be taken in conformity with the agreed JRC methodology and key stakeholders/NSST (2022)
- ❑ Drafting of Imereti S3 Strategy (2022)

## NUTS Platform in Georgia

### 2. EU Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS):

- ✓ Major stakeholder meetings and Introductory Workshop on **NUTS** conducted (2019);
- ✓ **Special Working Group on NUTS** with participation of **GEOSTAT** and **MRDI** and ad hoc engagement of **Eurostat** representative is composed (2019)
- ✓ First report/inception research – “*Study on application of EU NUTS methodology in Georgia and its practical implications*” is prepared with the EU TA support and substantial contribution from Polish, Croatian and Portuguese experts (March/April 2020)
- ✓ Eurostat representative and GEOSTAT provided specific comments and suggestions to the report that were fully taken into consideration
- ✓ Finalized **Report** with specific recommendations and **Indicative Action Plan** endorsed by Special Working Group/respective agencies (September 2020)
- ✓ **Harmonization Plan (2021-2027)** for NUTS future gradual implementation prepared and agreed among main stakeholders (August 2021)
- ✓ Harmonization Plan reflected in GEOSTATs “Development Strategy of the National System of Official Statistics of Georgia” and its action plans for 2020-2021 and 2022-2023
- ✓ Further steps to be taken in conformity with the existing *Indicative Action Plan*, via MRDI coordination.

# DECENTRALISATION STRATEGY 2020-2025





**THANK YOU!**

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