



SHARING NATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS: VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS, PROGRESSES AND CHALLENGES

CASE OF GEORGIA

GEORGIA AND 2030 AGENDA

- Georgia is strongly committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- Since the submission of the first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2016, a number of important measures have been taken towards implementation of SDGs at the national level;
- The Government created ownership through the SDGs National Council and designed National Document of Development Goals to guide further implementation;
- Georgia is going to present second VNR in 2020;
- In order to implement Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDG), administration of the Government of Georgia (AoG), has elaborated web-based portal, which is operating now in Georgian language and will be soon operational in English.

NATIONALIZATION OF SDGS

- Georgia has launched an intensive process of incorporating the SDGs into national goals, aligning them with country's strategic priorities.;
- Georgia prioritized all Goals. Through the several rounds of the consultations between all sides involved, 17 goals, nearly 95 targets and 215 indicators have been identified.
- National priorities and their targets were adjusted to meet Georgia's specific context.
- Georgia is already in the line with some global targets for 2030, so government decided to have more advanced goals, especially in the health care (Especially then it comes to births to be attended by professional doctor and child mortality at birth).
- The adjusted goals and targets will be reviewed in 5-year span to cover full scope of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018* |
|--|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| GDP at current prices, billion GEL | 29.2 | 31.8 | 34.0 | 37.8 | 41.1 |
| GDP real growth, percent | 4.6 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 4.8 | 4.7 |
| GDP deflator, percent | 3.8 | 5.9 | 4.2 | 6.1 | 3.6 |
| GDP per capita (at current prices), GEL | 7 837.4 | 8 524.3 | 9 129.0 | 10 152.0 | 11 013.9 |
| GDP per capita (at current prices), USD | 4 438.3 | 3 754.9 | 3 857.3 | 4 046.8 | 4 345.5 |
| GDP at current prices, billion USD | 16.5 | 14.0 | 14.4 | 15.1 | 16.2 |
| Gross National Income (GNI), mil. GEL | 28.9 | 30.9 | 32.3 | 35.8 | 39.2 |
| GNI per capita, GEL | 7 765.3 | 8 290.6 | 8 676.3 | 9 601.3 | 10 513.1 |
| GNI, mil. USD | 16.4 | 13.6 | 13.7 | 14.3 | 15.5 |
| GNI per capita, USD | 4 397.5 | 3 652.0 | 3 665.9 | 3 827.3 | 4 147.9 |

GROSS OUTPUT

(AT CURRENT PRICES, MIL. GEL)

| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018* |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Growing of fruit, nuts, beverage and spice crops | 722.2 | 712.9 | 743.5 | 813.7 |
| Farming of animals | 1,837.1 | 1,983.9 | 1,979.2 | 2,020.9 |
| Production of mineral waters and soft drinks | 754.0 | 757.4 | 871.6 | 1,083.1 |
| Manufacture of alcoholic beverages | 626.2 | 778.1 | 1,003.4 | 1,137.0 |
| Manufacture of refined petroleum products; manufacture of chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibers; | 1,885.7 | 2,030.1 | 2,295.1 | 2,566.3 |
| Manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products | 1,107.5 | 1,127.3 | 1,911.2 | 2,145.3 |
| Electricity, gas and water supply | 1,373.4 | 1,510.5 | 1,628.1 | 1,929.6 |
| General construction of buildings and civil engineering works | 3,493.8 | 4,157.3 | 5,570.8 | 5,697.1 |
| Construction of motorways, roads, airfields and sport facilities | 1,067.7 | 1,320.4 | 1,278.4 | 1,274.4 |
| Wholesale trade and commission trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 1,872.6 | 2,056.0 | 2,230.7 | 2,447.4 |
| Hotels; camping sites and other provision of short-stay accommodation | 499.3 | 604.0 | 753.2 | 846.7 |
| Restaurants; bars; canteens and catering | 1,051.2 | 1,130.5 | 1,230.9 | 1,432.0 |
| Cargo handling and storage | 472.0 | 442.1 | 490.2 | 448.1 |
| Financial intermediation | 1,676.0 | 1,867.2 | 2,155.0 | 2,492.9 |
| Real estate, renting and business activities | 2,786.8 | 3,075.6 | 3,564.6 | 4,083.3 |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | 3,412.2 | 3,569.6 | 3,702.9 | 3,857.6 |
| Education | 1,627.1 | 1,735.8 | 1,858.3 | 2,024.6 |
| Health and social work | 2,148.4 | 2,345.6 | 2,431.3 | 2,686.3 |
| Other community, social and personal service activities | 2,231.5 | 2,316.9 | 2,291.5 | 2,755.1 |
| (=) Output at basic prices | 48,250.5 | 51,662.3 | 57,472.9 | 62,647.1 |
| (+) Taxes on products | 4,445.4 | 4,873.2 | 5,645.1 | 5,965.9 |
| (-) Subsidies on products | 158.3 | 168.6 | 190.0 | 210.3 |
| (=) Output at market prices | 52,537.6 | 56,367.9 | 62,928.0 | 68,402.7 |

INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF GEORGIA

- In 2018 Georgia's foreign trade turnover increased by 17% in comparison with previous year and amounted 12,5 billion USD.
- Export amounted 3,4 billion USD and import – 9,1 billion USD.
- In 2018, import of machineries and equipment of HS chapters 84-85 amounted 1,6 billion USD, which is 17,6% of total import.
- According to the preliminary data, in 2018 FDI amounted 1,2 billion USD and stood 7,6% of GDP.

TRADE FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Country's economic strategy seeks to create synergies between trade and other policies.
- Trade policies aim at diversifying partners. Main export markets for Georgia are Azerbaijan, Russian Federation, Armenia, Belarus, Turkey, China, Ukraine, USA, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan;
- Import is mainly coming from Turkey, Russian Federation, China, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Germany, USA, Armenia, France and Italy;
- To further facilitate trade relations, Georgia is constantly reforming and improving the institutional capacities of State agencies; transforming Georgia into a regional transit hub; developing the service sector, including outsourcing;
- Georgia is implementing EU Association Agreement and establishing rules, requirement and standard according to the EU regulations.
- Georgia is part of UNECE pilot project "e-TIR", aimed at providing an exchange platform for all actors (Customs authorities, holders and guarantee chains) involved in the TIR system, known as the "eTIR international system";
- By making more effective border crossing procedures for import or export, Georgia is trying to reduce costs of trade.

GEORGIA'S POLICY IN EDUCATION

- The Government providing vocational training aid to help professionals across sectors improve their expertise skills;
- In 2018, 2871 persons were involved in the special retraining program for job seekers. 188 persons increased their qualification and 2574 persons took full course of study.
- Government spent 2,1 million Georgian Lari for the abovementioned program.
- Georgia is trying to attract top experts to provide training services. For example, mentors from the Silicone Valley participate in training services offered by the Georgian innovation center. The Government's specialized agency for promoting innovation (Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency – GITA) conducted needs assessment of the IT sector's skills requirements, and the results will be used for developing IT training programs.
- Georgia's education policy is in compliance with the targets set by the SDG 4 that are fully nationalized currently. Empowering people is possible only by providing the quality education to all. With this in mind, the Government has taken a commitment to double its share in financing of education up to 6% of the country's GDP.

FACILITATION OF JOB CREATION

- In light of SDG 8, Economic Policy of the Government is aimed to the development of the private sector, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as a key driving force of economic growth.
- Georgia has been named as a top reformer and leader of Eastern Partnership countries in the development of the SME in the country and ranked 9th in the world in the Doing Business assessment;
- The increase of number of newly registered companies reflects the positive trend reaching 50,426 in 2018 from 50,120 in 2017.
- Ensuring that trade reforms support economic growth requires maintaining continuous public -private consultations across sectors;
- Georgia's move to a paperless trading system has been developed over several years building on international best practices.
- In 2016, Government of Georgia initiated one of the biggest project in the region "Internetization and Broadband Development of Georgia – "BroadBand for All", through which the whole country will be covered with the high speed fiber optic internet connection, providing the infrastructure, digital literacy and e-commerce opportunities to MSMEs and households

CHALLENGES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

- Challenges for SDG implementation can be divided as international and national. International shocks and economic instability is affecting national policies and results on SDG implementation;
- Lack of investment and financial resources for implementation different approaches is one of the biggest chalanges;
- The challenge for Georgia is how to achieve a balanced structural transformation that involves increased specialization in capital intensive products as well as improving the productive capacity of existing labour-intensive industries in manner that ensures consist progress in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda.
- Addressing the skills gap in the labor market is critical and should be done on a continuous basis;
- In implementation of SDGs one of the challenge is to find balance between the growth and to stay in the line with commitments CO2 emission and to keep sound environmental policy.

CONCLUSION

Georgia started to implement policies to achieve sustainable development goals in different field. As an example, I can mentioned policies taken in the field of:

- Protection of environment;
- Implementation of new infrastructure projects such as deep sea port, roads and electricity transmission lines;
- Construction new hydro and wind power plants to ensure more excessive use of green energy;
- Facilitating investment, easing to do business, decreasing the taxes on reinvestment, increasing attractiveness of country for doing the business, to fight unemployment and poverty and to create decent jobs;
- Facilitating involvement of population governance and using single window for different economic activities;
- Broader use of blockchain system for the land and property registration.

