

We are happy to share with you, People in Need Georgia's summer Newsletter. In this newsletter, you can find our projects highlights, interviews, success stories, interesting video reports, and much more.

Enjoy the read!



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OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMMES



Greetings! Welcome to the summer 2023 newsletter from People in Need Georgia (PIN). We are pleased to update you on our progress over the past six months. Our commitment to our mission of fostering inclusive and sustainable lives for individuals and communities in Georgia remains unwavering.

In line with this mission, we have made significant strides in our humanitarian and development

efforts. Specifically, we have established two child-friendly spaces in Rustavi and Zugdidi, as well as a temporary child-friendly space in Poti, catering to Ukrainian children residing in Georgia. Additionally, we have supplied teaching materials to eight schools, benefitting 1,500 children, both Georgian and Ukrainian. Furthermore, PIN has used its internal funds to provide direct financial assistance to vulnerable Ukrainians in Georgia, improve healthcare access for those with chronic illnesses, and facilitate job placements for a number of programme participants. Our aim is to foster self-reliance among Ukrainians in Georgia by creating employment and income generation opportunities.

In addition to our humanitarian endeavours, we continue to provide development assistance to rural communities in Georgia. Thanks to support from the Czech Development Agency (CzDA), we have been enhancing the capacities of tourism service providers, assisting them in marketing and promotion efforts. We have also been promoting innovative farming practices and supporting the Aragvi Area brand in Dusheti municipality. PIN also remains committed to strengthening the technical and operational capabilities of civil society organizations (CSOs) throughout Georgia. Through projects such as the EU-funded "Resilient Civil Society and Media Response to the Ukraine War" and the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Czech MFA)-funded 'Media Literacy for a Democratic and Resilient Society in Georgia,' we have provided financial support to 16 CSOs and 30 independent media outlets. These initiatives aim to counter disinformation, uphold quality journalism, and contribute to societal resilience. In addition, PIN has granted funds to an equal number of CSOs for 'One World in Schools' (OWIS) community media literacy activities, while 15 CSOs have received financial assistance to bolster

their operational capacities and address the needs of populations affected by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine. As part of the Czech MFA-funded project, 6 CSOs will soon receive grants to conduct OWIS media literacy workshops in their communities. Moreover, over 20 representatives from independent media have received training on reporting in conflict and crisis situations, as well as on safeguarding and investigative journalism.

Looking ahead, we are actively developing two proposals for the European Union and preparing to commence a CzDA-funded project supporting youth work in Dusheti municipality. As summer approaches, we hope you have a joyful and sun-filled season ahead.

We are incredibly grateful to all of our valued donors, partners and our staff.

Sophia Kikvidze
Grants and Reporting Manager
People in Need Georgia
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WITH OLD VALUES AND NEW GOALS, WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE IN GEORGIA



PIN Georgia's team has completed the first steps toward the Country Strategy review which provided insightful discussions on our strategic direction.

We hope to align our priorities with the current needs and potential challenges in Georgia and the region and will reach out to other stakeholders over the coming months.

PROGRAMME UPDATES

SUPPORTING UKRAINIANS IN GEORGIA

PIN LAUNCHES CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR CSOS SUPPORTING UKRAINIANS IN GEORGIA



On December 8, PIN launched a capacity-building activity for CSOs in Tbilisi. This initiative was organised as part of a project funded by DG NEAR, and it involved the selection of 11 CSOs that work with Ukrainians in Georgia. PIN is committed to providing these CSOs with capacity development support, as well as operational and service provision grants to further enhance their work and impact.

IT EQUIPMENT DONATION BRINGS HOPE TO UKRAINIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN IN GEORGIAN SCHOOLS

In today's fast-paced world, access to technology is crucial for students to succeed in their education. Unfortunately, not all children have the privilege of having the necessary IT equipment to keep up with their studies. However, thanks to the generosity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lichtenstein and PIN, more than 1000 Ukrainian refugee children in Rustavi and Batumi schools now have access



to laptops, smart boards, printers, projectors, and other essential equipment. These donations will not only benefit the Ukrainian students but also assist in upgrading the outdated IT material-technical infrastructure in some Georgian schools.

These IT tools not only enhance their learning experience but also provide a sense of security and connection for these children. With the ability to contact loved ones back home and connect with friends, these young people can finally have some peace of

mind. They can also explore the world of endless possibilities that technology offers, just like any other child.

Each laptop and piece of equipment donated is a lifeline for these children, giving them the tools they need to succeed academically and personally. The impact of this donation will not only be felt by the children themselves, but by their families and communities as well. These IT tools have the power to change lives and create a brighter future for these children.

In addition to IT equipment, schools were also provided with school furniture and sports equipment. This donation will undoubtedly make a significant difference in the lives of these children and help them achieve their potential.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY



On June 1st with the help of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein, People in Need supported the organisation of an event in Zugdidi and Poti to celebrate International Children's Day. Our aim was to foster community, friendship, and cultural exchange among Georgian and Ukrainian children.

Thanks to our collaboration with the local organisation "Youth For Samegrelo Development," we created a memorable experience for all participants. These events contribute to children's development, nurturing creativity and social skills.

THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE OF 26,000 UKRAINIANS IN GEORGIA



Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a wave of refugees has swept into neighbouring states. Listen to the story of one refugee family who has sought safety in Georgia.

Read the article [HERE](#)
Watch the Video [HERE](#)

EMOTIONAL ENCOUNTER: FOREIGN MINISTER OF LIECHTENSTEIN HEARS STORIES OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN IN GEORGIA



People in Need facilitated an amazing visit from the Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein, Dominique Hasler. Ms. Hasler was visiting a project in support of Ukrainian and Georgian children in Rustavi, implemented by PIN Georgia with funding from the government of Liechtenstein.

Hearing firsthand from Ukrainian children who fled towns like Mariupol was extremely emotional for all and highlighted the need for continued support in areas such as psycho-social support and after school activities for Ukrainian children in Georgia.

INTRODUCING THE UA ANCHOR WOMEN'S HUB: EMPOWERING UKRAINIAN WOMEN IN TBILISI WITH EU SUPPORT



We are delighted to announce that the UA Anchor Initiative team has recently unveiled the Women's Hub, an empowering space dedicated to the growth and development of Ukrainian women in Tbilisi. This remarkable initiative, made possible with the generous support of the European Union under the "Resilient Civil Society and Media Response to the Ukraine War" project implemented by PIN, is poised to make a lasting impact on the lives of Ukrainian women in Georgia.

With the EU's generous backing, approximately 30 participants have already had the privilege of exploring the diverse range of opportunities provided by the UA Anchor Women's Hub. These encompass a broad spectrum of activities, including specialised trainings and certified programmes designed to pave the way for future employment in sectors such as beauty and hospitality, real estate and sales, as well as marketing and social networks. Moreover, the Women's Hub also offers invaluable support for aspiring entrepreneurs, guiding them through the process of launching their own businesses and assisting in the development of comprehensive business plans. Additionally, the Women's Hub emphasises the significance of networking and provides much-needed psychological support to foster personal growth and well-being.

During the inaugural event, Samarina Viktoriia, esteemed co-founder of Ukrainian businesses in Tbilisi, generously shared her insights on how to successfully initiate and manage a business venture in Georgia. Her inspirational talk touched upon vital aspects such as adapting to the local market, persevering through challenges, and always maintaining self-belief. Undoubtedly, the Women's Hub launch marks a crucial milestone towards enhancing employment opportunities for Ukrainian women residing in Georgia. The UA Anchor Women Hub is poised to transform the lives of Ukrainian women in Tbilisi, empowering them to thrive and flourish both personally and professionally.

LOCAL ACTION GROUPS (LAGS): EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR LASTING CHANGE

PIN-SUPPORTED LAGS FROM ARAGVI, KAZBEGI, AND TSKALTUBO SHINE AT LINK 2023 CONFERENCE IN BASILICATA, ITALY



PIN-supported Aragvi, Kazbegi, and Tskaltubo Local Action Groups (LAGs) had a wonderful time at the exciting LINK 2023 conference in the beautiful Basilicata region of Italy. LAG members joined local development groups from various countries and engaged in discussions about future collaborations. "Alongside the Akhmeta and Zugdidi LAGs, we established a strong presence at the conference, fostering a sense of unity. We are grateful to the organizers for providing such an enlightening experience," said Teona Kobuladze, Manager of LAG Tskaltubo. One of the highlights was LAG Tskaltubo's active

participation in the gastronomic corner, where they proudly showcased Georgian wine, cheese, and traditional sweets to their European counterparts. PIN established LAGs also presented impressive projects supported by LAGs in Tskaltubo, Aragvi, and Kazbegi, highlighting the exceptional tourist services in their respective regions.

EU AMBASSADOR IMPRESSED BY LAG TSKALTUBO'S PROGRESS IN GEORGIA



The Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia, Pawel Herczynski, paid a visit to LAG Tskaltubo. The LAG Tskaltubo project, funded by the EU and implemented by PIN, warmly welcomed the ambassador.

During the visit, LAG Tskaltubo showcased their remarkable work and discussed their future plans with Ambassador Herczynski.

The ambassador also visited the Tetra Cave project supported by the EU and LAG Tskaltubo. It's a one-of-a-kind place where you can experience speleotherapy and taste wine that's aged inside the stunning cave.

For more please follow [LAG Tskaltubo Facebook Page](#)

CZECH SUPPORT FOR GEORGIA'S MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS LAG ARAGVI

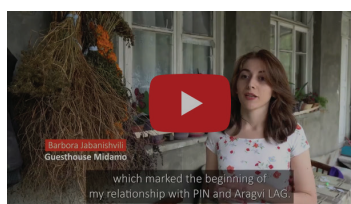
LOOKING FOR UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURES? THEN "ARAGVI ADVENTURE CENTRE" IS ALL YOU NEED!

Looking for unforgettable adventures? Then "Aragvi Adventure Centre" is all you need! Picturesque mountains, rivers and fresh air, in combination with eco-cottages, cycling, kayaking, ziplining and rafting tours are waiting for you!

This Eco-Friendly Centre is one of many successful businesses in Dusheti Municipality supported by a great friend of Georgia, the [Česká rozvojová agentura - CzechAid](#). For more details Click HERE → [Aragvi Adventure Center](#)



LAG ARAGVI SUPPORTED GUEST HOUSE "MIDAMO" IN THE REMOTE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE OF TKHILIANA



Thinking about summer holidays already? We suggest visiting the Pshav-Khevsureti protected area. Barbara Jabanishvili runs a family Guest House "Midamo", in the remote mountain village of Tkiliana.

Barbara applied for a grant from the Aragvi Local Action Group, a People in Need project, to establish her business.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTX4T2MNJPM>

"We have twelve people in our family, including my siblings and parents. We are permanent residents here and are intensively engaged in the business. My parents are in charge of transportation and cooking, and me and my brother offer guide services and receiving guests," says Barbara.

EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND LAG ARAGVI JOIN FORCES FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE FESTIVAL IN GEORGIA



On June 17, a remarkable festival took place in Aragvi, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Georgia, the European Union and the Local Action Group (LAG) Aragvi. The festival served as a platform to showcase the exceptional

products originating from the protected landscape area of Aragvi. The diverse array of traditional crafts and delectable delicacies on display made it a day to remember! Participants were fortunate to partake in Khinkali master classes, each carefully tailored to capture the unique flavours of the three valleys. Learning the art of crafting these mouthwatering dumplings was truly unparalleled! Furthermore, guests were invited to immerse themselves in the captivating world of embroidery and wood carving. They had the opportunity to create their own delightful accessories using age-old techniques. The joy of craftsmanship permeated the atmosphere, uniting everyone present! The significance of such events cannot be overstated. They play a crucial role in supporting local small businesses while highlighting the astounding beauty of the Aragvi valley and its neighbouring communities. Let us come together to celebrate and promote their remarkable contributions! In addition, during the event, the Ambassador of the European Union in Georgia unveiled two noteworthy development initiatives under the banner of Team Europe. The first initiative, "Balanced Territorial Development," aims to ensure equitable progress across the country. The second initiative, "Green and Health," seeks to promote sustainable and healthy living.

FIGHTING DISINFORMATION AND PROMOTING CIVIL SOCIETY IN GEORGIA

MEDIA LITERACY PROJECT LAUNCHED IN GEORGIA TO EMPOWER DIGITAL CITIZENS AND COUNTER MISINFORMATION



People in Need Georgia launched a media literacy project with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and in cooperation with Radio Marneuli. The project aims to address various important aspects of the digital world. During our interactive training, together with representatives of civil society organizations working with young people, we discussed several topics of interest:

- ✓ Digital citizenship: Understanding responsible and ethical behaviour in the digital realm.
- ✓ Cybersecurity: Learning about the importance of protecting personal information and staying safe online.
- ✓ Fake graphic images and detection mechanisms: Identifying manipulated or deceptive visual content and utilising tools to detect them.
- ✓ Trolls and bots: Exploring the impact of online trolls and automated accounts on digital discourse.
- ✓ Propaganda: Understanding the techniques and strategies used in spreading misleading information.
- ✓ Social media management: Enhancing skills in effectively managing and engaging with social media platforms.

The project is being implemented in the Kvemo-Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions of Georgia. It includes increasing the awareness of independent media actors regarding investigative journalism and crisis situation reporting. Additionally, workshops incorporating documentary film screening will be conducted, and capacity-building sessions for teachers and other education system actors on media literacy will be organised.

AN INCREDIBLE START TO THE PIN GEORGIA CIVIL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME OF OWIS (ONE WORLD IN SCHOOL)



Our top trainers, Nana Rapava and Muro Takalandze, together with the project team, delivered our first training programme of 2023 on Media Literacy skills, Media Communication, and OWIS Methodology to 10 new CSOs in Georgia: three Ukrainians and seven Georgians. Over the course of five days in Tbilisi, they received a wealth of knowledge and engaging activities to better equip them as educators.

With what they have learned now in their arsenal, these professionals will be able to provide workshops, screenings, and teaching through documentary films via the PIN-OWIS approach more effectively, ultimately supporting communities in their own region and city. Media literacy is an essential tool for strengthening democracy.

It allows individuals to critically evaluate and analyse the information they receive from various sources, including traditional media outlets, social media platforms, and other sources of information. The PIN-OWIS methodology and teaching through films promote critical thinking, informed decision-making, and active civic engagement, all of which are crucial for maintaining a healthy and vibrant democracy.

PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF GEORGIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

ANCIENT MOSQUES - THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF GEORGIA AND A SOURCE OF INCOME



In the Ajara Mountains of Georgia, we can find over 50 wooden mosques built between 1817 and 1926. Local CSO 'Solidarity Community', supported by PIN and the EU, preserves and promotes these cultural treasures.

Read more [HERE](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erd62oDlDqY>

PIN CORNER AT EUROPE DAY IN GEORGIA SHOWCASES UKRAINIAN TALENT AND TRADITION

We are delighted to share our incredible experience at Europe Day in Georgia, where our PIN corner showcased the talent of Ukrainian beneficiaries, offering masterclasses on painting eggs and crafting traditional dolls. The joy on kids' faces was priceless!

Let's remember, PIN supports Ukrainian refugees with safe accommodations and provides IT equipment to schools in need. We are grateful to our donors for their support and PIN team for their dedication!



MEETINGS AND EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING THE 247TH ANNIVERSARY OF US INDEPENDENCE, PIN GEORGIA'S LONGSTANDING FRIEND AND SUPPORTER



On June 29, PIN staff had the honour of joining our true friend and partner, the US Embassy in Georgia, in celebrating US Independence Day. It is a testament to the unwavering trust and support provided by USAID and the US government to PIN Georgia.

We are incredibly proud that our colleague, Teona Purtskhvanidze, had the special honour of representing PIN at this significant event. Thanks to the generous funding from USAID, PIN has implemented a range of important projects in Georgia, starting from promoting tourism and finishing with fostering media literacy. These initiatives have had a lasting impact on the communities we serve.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, we extend heartfelt gratitude to the US Embassy, USAID, and the US government for their steadfast support and partnership. We hope that together, we will continue working towards a brighter future for the people of Georgia.

PRODUCTIVE MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION: PIN EXPLORES NEW HORIZONS FOR COOPERATION IN GEORGIA



PIN Georgia Country Director, Sofia Janjua, and PIN Media Literacy Project Manager, Teona Purtskhvanidze, had a productive meeting with Lali Kalandadze, Head of the General Education Management and Development Department at the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. PIN introduced the Ministry representatives to the important work PIN is doing in Georgia and shared insights on our innovative OWIS (One World in Schools) methodology. During the fruitful discussion, Sofia and Teona addressed the selection of documentaries from the "One World in Schools" festival, which are already being used in Czech schools as part of the educational curriculum. There was genuine interest from the Ministry in utilising these resources to teach human rights and media literacy in Georgia. We are excited to announce that the Ministry is interested in collaborating with us to make our documentaries and manuals accessible to a wider audience. The materials will be available on the Ministry of Education and Science's online platform, General Education Reform. This opens up a world of possibilities for enhancing education and empowering future generations in Georgia! Stay tuned for more updates on this excellent partnership. Together, we can make a difference in promoting human rights and media literacy.

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE: PIN COUNTRY DIRECTOR ENGAGES IN IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS ON FOOD WASTE AND MODIFICATIONS OF TAX LEGISLATION



PIN Country Director Sofia Janjua had a productive meeting with Khatia Tsilosani, the Deputy Chair of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee. During the meeting, several important topics were discussed, including legislative modifications concerning food losses and the reduction of food waste. Furthermore, they engaged in discussions regarding tax matters and social benefits associated with the draft law. Notably, significant attention was dedicated to the proposed legislation on waste reduction and donation. The draft law is scheduled to undergo three readings and ultimately be adopted during the forthcoming autumn session.

REINTEGRATION OF RETURNEES FROM FRANCE INSPIRING STORIES

COURAGE, DETERMINATION, AND SUCCESS: LANA SHELIA'S INSPIRING STORY



Introducing Lana Shelia, a courageous and determined woman. Lana faced personal challenges that led her to embark on a journey to France, but soon, the homesickness became overwhelming. Recognising talents as an accomplished hairdresser in Georgia for five years, Lana made the decision to seize the opportunity provided by the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) and return to her beloved homeland. With the generous support of OFII, Lana set up her very own beauty salon near the Saburtalo subway station. The strategic location swiftly transformed into a bustling hub, attracting clients from the Saburtalo area. Day after day, Lana's salon buzzes with activity, catering to the diverse needs of numerous clients. The salon offers exceptional hairdressing services while also satisfying the ever-increasing demand for top-notch nail care. As Lana's business flourishes, she envisions expanding her salon's horizons and introducing a wider range of services to her customers. Lana is incredibly grateful to OFII and the kind-hearted French people who supported her wholeheartedly. Her journey is a powerful reminder that by staying strong and seizing opportunities, we have the amazing ability to change our lives and make our dreams come true.

FRENCH SUPPORT TRANSFORMS LIVES: HOW GIORGI SAPARIDZE'S FAMILY FOUND PROSPERITY IN GEORGIA

No job opportunities in Georgia and significant financial challenges forced Giorgi Saparidze and his wife to make a quite painful decision to leave the country and seek financial stability abroad. The family migrated to France, where they had their two children and at the same time became reasonably financial stable. However, when the homesickness became unbearable, the family decided to return to Georgia and with the support of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) start a small business that could bring financial stability to their family and an opportunity to live in their homeland. Through PIN's facilitation of an OFII grant, they purchased two quad bikes, and started offering tours in mountainous Adjara to tourists, as well as renting out the quad bikes.



As Adjara is a popular tourist destination, their business soon became successful, bringing the income the family dreamed of for many years. The success brings motivation to continue to be better and more successful, so Giorgi and his wife plan to expand their business and build a small guesthouse in Keda, the picturesque mountainous part of Adjara. The future seems bright for the family in Georgia! This is just one life-changing story among many, that has become possible only with generous support from the [Office Français d'immigration et d'intégration. #OFII](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN "PEOPLE OF PIN"



At PIN, 'people' is the first word in our name, and people are central to what we do.

We have amazing colleagues all over the world doing important work all year round! Today, we would like to introduce you to one of our (many) exceptional colleagues: Gigo Kapanadze. Gigo is Finance Manager at PIN Georgia and it is his deep understanding of financial management principles and his attention to detail that

ensure efficient resource allocation and financial stability. It is because of Gigo's diligent work and professionalism that PIN is able to really have such a positive impact on all of the lives it touches.

We will continue to showcase the extraordinary members of our team and celebrate their priceless contributions, both now and in the future.

PIN COMPLAINT RESPONSE AND FEEDBACK MECHANISM



Would you like to share some feedback about the way People in Need Georgia works

- ✓ You can contact us by phone: +995 591 03 00 21
- ✓ via e-mail: feedback.georgia@peopleinneed.net
- ✓ or via WhatsApp: +995 591 03 00 21

Your Feedback is very important for us!
Thanks in advance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12ew58v255M>

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