

Sustainable development stands high on the agenda of the Government of Georgia as we are constantly facing economic or social, health and environment related challenges. Education plays an important role in effectively addressing them.

New National Strategy of Education and Science 2022-2030 ensures equal access to inclusive and quality education and improvement of LLL opportunities. In response to modern trends, it places emphasis on digital transformation, global citizenship, democratic culture, green transition etc.

All of these topics have been reflected into Authorization standards. It is mandatory for general, vocational and higher education institutions to ensure sustainable development both on institutional and program levels. The Government has started the rollout of authorization process of preschool and general education institutions from 2023.

The new competence-based National Curriculum identifies a number of priority topics, including human rights, financial and digital literacy and protection of the environment. Also, it defines crosscutting topics, such as critical and creative thinking, sustainable development, entrepreneurship and use of technology. These topics are also prioritized in project-based learning and teaching at schools.

Teachers are at the heart of the entire reforming process. The Government ensures and supports professional development of principals and teachers. Trainings are organized on sustainable development, citizenship education, ICT, human rights, democratic culture, environmental education etc.

The process of retraining of preschool practitioners continued. The “preschool environmental education program “was evaluated and a new topic - climate change - was added. This year, trainings will continue with the renewed program.

Under the program "Environmental and agricultural education at school", primary level teacher trainings continued throughout the country and more than 2000 teachers were trained. The process was renewed this year due to the demand.

Applying IT tools are integrated in a variety of teacher training modules. In 2022, 4679 ICT and various subject teachers were trained.

The Government supports development of digital competences for learners and teachers via international projects, such as e-Twinning, a joint pilot project with INTEL, Erasmus+ project DITECH, SELFIE. e-Twinning community is encouraging almost 2800 e-Twinners from Georgia to cooperate with colleagues from different European countries to create projects together with their students. 400 new teachers were registered on e-Twinning (ESEP) portal during 2022. More than 268 schools are involved in INTEL projects. In total up to 1000 projects will be implemented in schools. Within the Erasmus+ project DITECH a new training module has been designed for teachers of all subjects, which provides hands on activities about using a

variety of online tools in teacher's practice. The digital tool SELFIE will be used in the process of school authorization to support self-assessment.

A new educational, interactive portal "Education E-House" was developed and launched in a test mode. Educational resources for teachers, students, school administration and parents are being uploaded on the portal. The portal will also offer different sorts of remote services, such as trainings and forums.

In 2021, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in public-private partnership framework jointly established the Skills Agency. The goal of the Agency is to modernize and transform VET system in Skills Eco-system through the involvement of Sectoral Skills Organizations (SSOs), which will be taking over the responsibility of development of qualifications, occupational and educational standards, the participation in qualification exams, development of trainings and resources. SSO start-ups were established in 9 economic sectors already.

The Agency works to transform the institutions into skills hubs. The structure of the VET institutions was revised according to the hubs development approach. Development of new qualifications has already started in the construction and logistics field in accordance with new qualification development model, based on international best practice.

Development of an e-platform aimed at elaborating and implementing technology-based learning at the VET level is under way. Digital skills are an integral part of the VET curriculum. Entrepreneurial skills as a key competence are integrated in all VET programs.

In order to upgrade the skills of the adult population and meet the demands of the labour market, the adult education system has been developed in the context of formal education - after completing short-term vocational training-retraining programmes a state-recognized certificate is issued. Private companies can also obtain the right to run short-term programmes.

To promote environmental and agrarian education, up to 7.000 persons were trained across the country in 2022. Up to 5,000 persons were trained in environmental protection, and 1.300 farmers (including 1,000 beekeepers) were trained to increase the quality of local agricultural products and raise the qualifications of farmers. Also, professional training/retraining programs in the fields of environment, forestry and agriculture for adults have been developed and were granted the right to be implemented. The process will start this year.

In order to promote scarce environmental professions, the "Green Scholarships" program was introduced by the Government and scholarships (1500 GEL) were awarded to 32 outstanding master's students.

Green and Digital Education and STEM direction are one of the priority academic fields for scholarships to continue studying abroad for masters and doctoral programs.

Also, development of the digital skills is considered in the national qualifications' framework on each level of higher education.

In 2022, the Environmental Education Coordinating Council was set up, to coordinate implementation of environmental education events planned throughout the country.

To popularize environmental and agricultural professions, a number of educational programs for IX-XII grade students have been implemented and are planned this year.

In 2022, competitions were announced for various target audiences on the topics of environmental education, biodiversity, ozone layer protection, sustainable forest management, natural disaster risk reduction. 13,258 persons participated in environmental and agricultural education and awareness-raising events, public discussions, informational and working meetings.

On June 5, 2022, the "Green Award - Preschool Environmental Education 2022" and "Green Award - Environmental and Agricultural Education at School 2022" competitions were held as part of the World Environment Day.

The Government of Georgia will double its efforts to ensure investment in improving education infrastructure, development of curriculum, modern and diverse education resources and to invest in the professional development of teachers.

Based on the survey of the level of environmental education and awareness, conducted for the first time, environmental education policies and programs will be planned and implemented. We underscore the importance of international cooperation in this process.