RONDELI FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2022

About Us

Established in 1998, the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies is an independent, non-profit policy think tank dedicated to helping improve public policy decision-making in Georgia through research and analysis, training of policymakers and policy analysts, and public education about the strategic issues, both domestic and international, facing Georgia and the Caucasus in the 21st century.

Donors And Partners In 2022

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
U.S. Department of State - The U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)
The Embassy of the Netherlands in Georgia
Estonian Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

This publication is made possible by the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The contents are the responsibility of the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (Rondeli Foundation) and do not necessarily represent the views of Sida.

Strategic Directions

- Support to the reinforcement of Georgian institutions by establishing good governance practices through the capacity building of decision-makers.

- Enhance national security by cultivating the culture of strategic thinking, and training analysts in national security policy planning.

- Contribute to nation/state building through assisting the national integration of ethnic and religious minority groups and preventing radicalization.

- Support to peacebuilding efforts through creating a common space for dialogue and identifying possible rapprochement schemes between the conflicting parties.

- Strengthen resilience of the Georgian state and Georgian society towards alien interference and disinformation efforts.

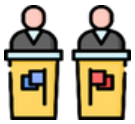
- Raise the future elite of the country by educating youth groups from minority communities.

- Support to Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic integration by creating space for dialogue with expert society, raising the awareness of different groups of Georgian society on the importance of European integration.

Capacity Building of Public Servants and Media

Through capacity building programs, the Rondeli Foundation aims to establish good governance practices by engaging a wide spectrum of stakeholders involved in the decision-making process. In addition to government employees, the Foundation's target audience includes political party staffers, media, civil society, youth groups, ethnic and religious minority communities, academia, and the Georgian Orthodox Church (GOC).

90
Public Servants



29
Political Party Staffers

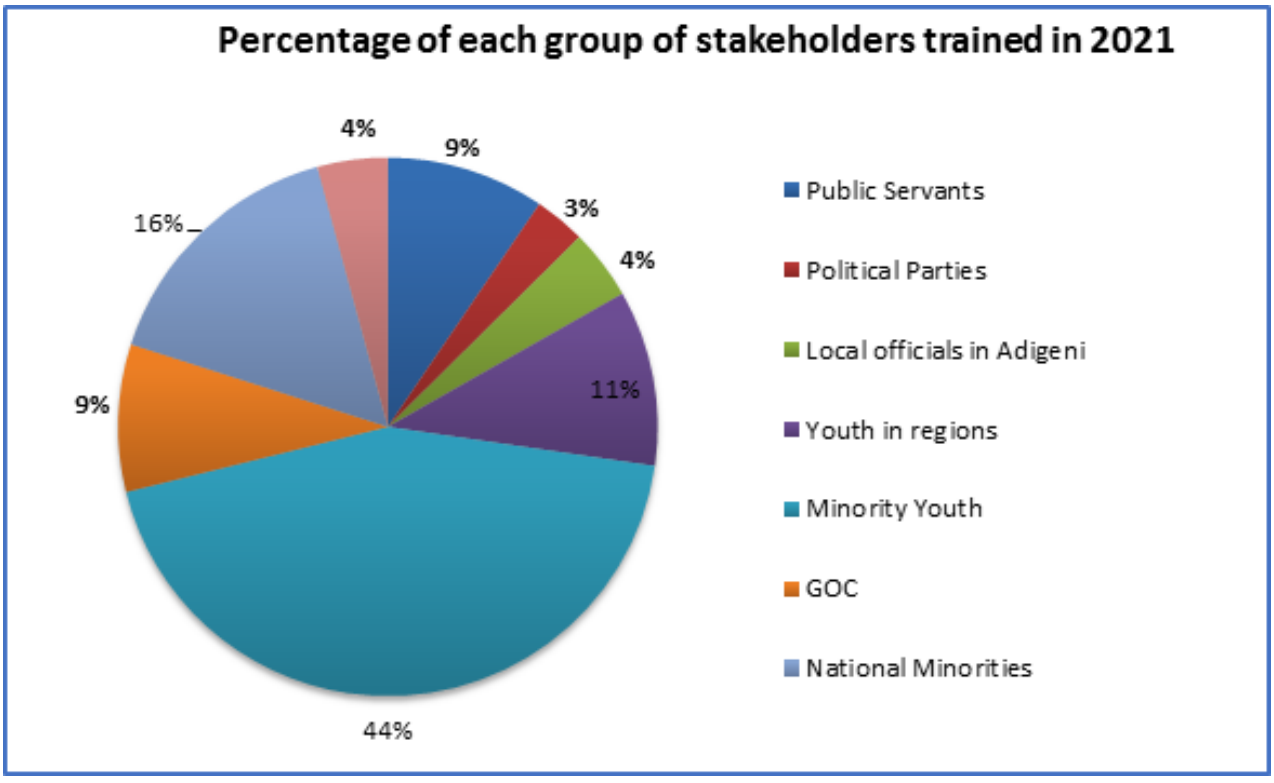
400 +
Youth Groups

250
National Minorities

30
Civil Society

15
Media

+800
GOC



Graduation ceremony of National Security and Public Policy Program participants, July 2021

Capacity building of public servants has traditionally been part of GFSIS's main directions, focusing on increasing knowledge in general policy analysis, as well as in a variety of policy issues. In order to stimulate broader understanding of the public policy agenda and cultivate the culture of strategic thinking, the Foundation has maintained its cross sectoral and cross agency approach in public administration by targeting high- and mid-level public servants.

In 2021, the Foundation continued two of its flagship programs: "Capacity-building of the Georgian Leadership Community for Improved Decision-making and Negotiation Skills" (CBGL), running since 2009 through Sida contribution, and "National Security and Public Policy," supported by the US government since 2001.

The National Security and Public Policy program is designed to prepare analysts for the national security community and equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to participate in the national security policy planning process and shape its future.

Capacity-building of the Georgian Leadership Community for Improved Decision-making and Negotiation Skills (CBGL) addresses the existing governance challenges and improves government policymaking through the capacity building of mid-level public servants in policy analysis, policy development, and negotiation techniques. Moreover, throughout the project, the public servants, under the supervision of mentors, individually develop policy documents reflecting the problematic issues at their respective agencies.

Currently, two graduates of GFSIS programs hold the position of Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs:

Giorgi Butkhuzi - (National Security and Public Policy, class of 2007-2008, and CBGL, class of 2010-2011), and **Aleksandre Darakhvelidze** - (CBGL class of 2012-2013).

Graduation of 2021 class in CBGL, July 2021

Training session on negotiations for public servants in Château Mukhrani, October 2021

In addition to well-established capacity building programs designed for public servants, in 2021, GFSIS, in cooperation with its long-term partner the Estonian School of Diplomacy (ESD), launched a new training program for **Georgia's Future Civil Service Leaders**, which aims to enhance Georgia's good governance practices by raising the awareness of Georgian public servants on nationwide and broader security and IR issues. The program also involves a study tour to Tallinn to share Estonia's best practices in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and good governance.

Recent Programs

Training of Human Resources (HR) specialists working in the public sector is one of the components of GFSIS's capacity building programs. In the past years, GFSIS has built an important network of HR specialists and managers.

On September 21, GFSIS organized a closed webinar entitled **Digitalization of Human Resources Management** (HRM) targeting HR Specialists from line ministries and LEPLs. The aim of the event was to discuss challenges and technological opportunities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic with Swedish and Georgian HR experts.

Graduation ceremony of Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigations Program, November 2021

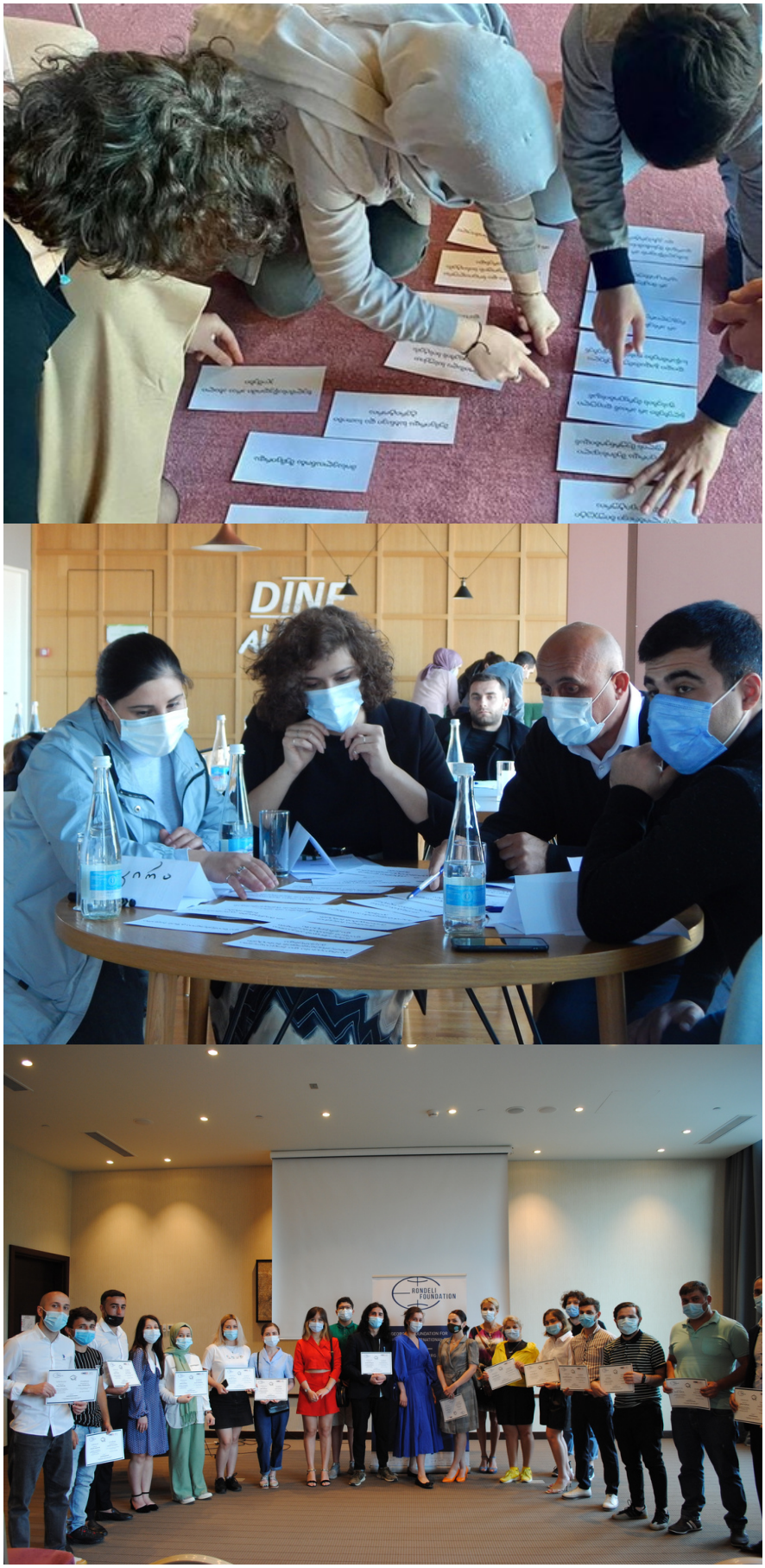
GFSIS has its first graduates of the pilot program **Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigations,** which launched in December 2020. Throughout eight months, 19 public servants from the public agencies directly responsible for cyber security and cybercrime investigation in Georgia attended online training courses on digital expertise, malware analysis, algorithms, big data in the criminal justice system, and more.

Capacity Building of the GOC

The Georgian Orthodox Church (GOC) is a stakeholder of GFSIS. The project **Encouraging Policy Discussions with the Georgian Church**, ongoing since May 2019 with the support of the **National Endowment for Democracy** (NED), aims to increase awareness and understanding of democratization and Georgia's political development, as well as community work of the EU-based religious institutions among religious leaders in order to foster informed, productive engagement between civil society and representatives of the GOC.

The project also entails capacity building of the representatives of GOC-related media outlets (television, radio and online media) and students of other higher education institutions under the supervision of the GOC. In total, around 80 participants were engaged in seminars throughout 2021.

Work with Political Party Staffers



Practical seminars for the "Youth For Changes" program participants, 2021

Built on long-term cooperation with the members of all major political parties, GFSIS continued the capacity building of young political party staffers throughout 2021. The project **Youth for Change**, supported by the **National Endowment for Democracy** (NED) since 2020, aims to encourage cooperation and networking among existing youth wings of political parties, members of youth movements, and active youth not affiliated with any party, both in Tbilisi and the regions of Imereti and Kakheti. In order to encourage target groups to engage in policy-oriented party work, including elaboration of the party programs and other strategic documents, and to strengthen their analytical skills, GFSIS carried out various capacity building activities. The tailor-made program promotes skills-development in areas of policy analysis, advocacy, and negotiations. The current group, consisting of 29 young political party staffers, represents the tenth cohort of the GFSIS political party school.

Minority Inclusion

Throughout 2021, GFSIS continued its capacity building activities in different regions of Georgia and organized a series of skills-based training sessions and discussions on nationwide issues and regional developments. In terms of enhancing national minority inclusion in the policy-making process, the organization continued the implementation of several projects in those regions settled with ethnic and religious minorities - Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, and Pankisi Gorge. GFSIS worked with the Muslim community of Georgia, including Kists, as well as ethnic Georgians in eco-migrant societies and in Adjara. All these efforts have further strengthened the knowledge of local stakeholders on national policies, encouraged them to engage in decision-making processes, and improved communication between the local communities and the center. The GFSIS approach is holistic, encompassing all segments of communities, including religious and community leaders, local governments, women's groups, civil society, and media.

Practical training and engaging discussions in Tbilisi, November 2021

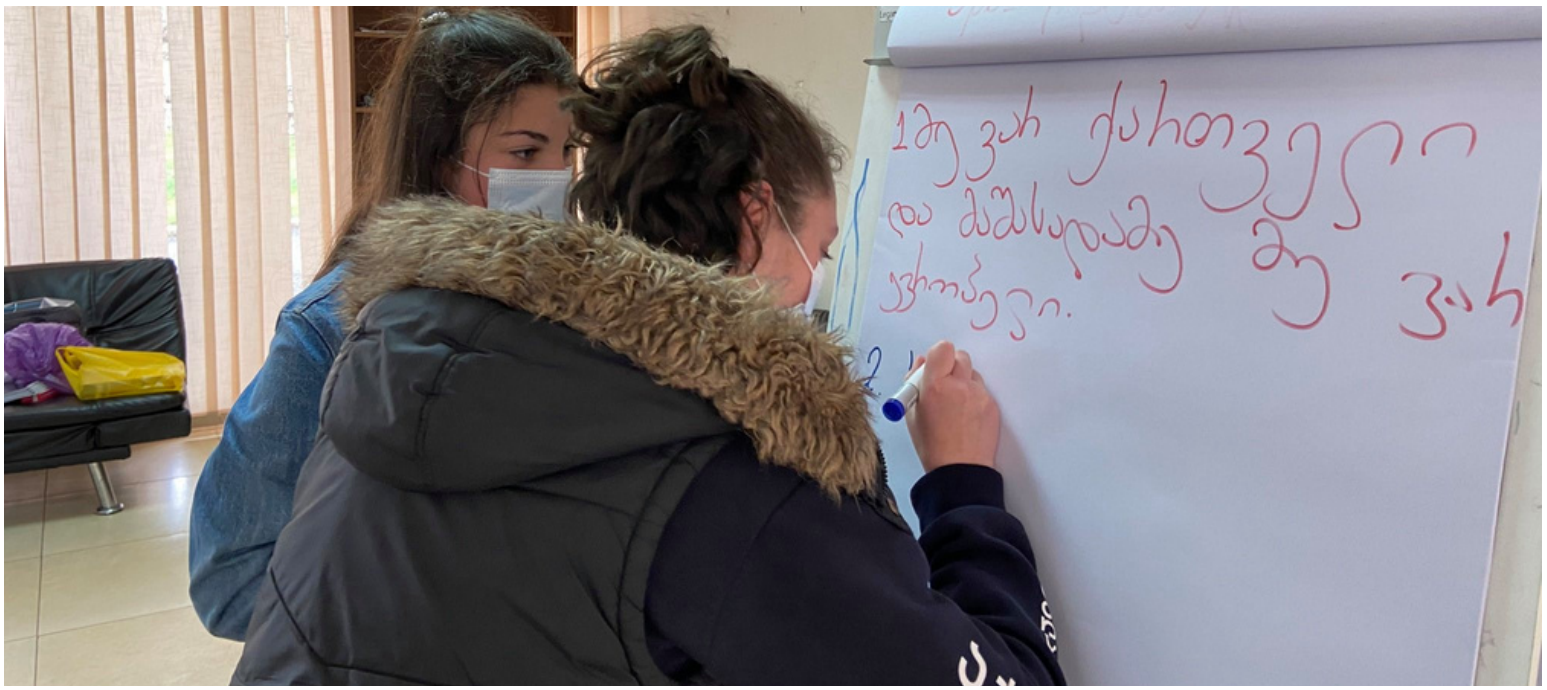
Youth Engagement

During this reporting period, GFSIS continued to work closely with youth from the vulnerable communities of Pankisi Gorge and Khulo (mountainous Adjara) with an aim to raise their awareness on local and nationwide issues and to encourage them to become active citizens through informal education and outreach activities. Within the framework of the project **Community Youth Engagement in Pankisi and Khulo**, supported by the US Embassy Tbilisi, more than 200 participants with an age range of 14 to 18 took part in Youth Discussion Clubs.

Award ceremony of the project participants of Community Youth Engagement in Pankisi and Khulo, July 2021

One of the active participants of the project **Youth for Changes**, Hurie Abashidze, received the local Human Rights Tulip Award from the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Georgia, Maaike van Koldam for being an outstanding human rights activist from Khulo in mountainous Adjara.

In addition to Pankisi and Khulo, GFSIS continued its work in Samtskhe-Javakheti to build trust and deepen cooperation between the two key communities of the Adigeni municipality - Orthodox Christian and Muslim Georgians. Throughout this reporting period, in total, 90 schoolchildren from local villages attended discussions on the topics of foreign policy, disinformation, active citizenry, and more. Simultaneously, GFSIS continued its cooperation with Zarzma Children's Academy in Adigeni. Youth Discussion Clubs organized under the auspices of the Zarzma Monastery engaged around 40 school children representing mixed communities of ethnic Georgian and Muslim communities.



In total, over 400 youngsters representing local communities in Kvemo Kartli, Shida Kartli, Samtskhe Javakheti, Pankisi Gorge, mountainous Adjara and the IDP settlement of Tserovani, were engaged in Youth Discussion Clubs focused on increasing awareness on state and nation-building processes, as well as on values consistent with various capacity building activities.

European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Support to Georgia's integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures is one of the priority directions of GFSIS. GFSIS remains committed to assisting the Government of Georgia (GoG) on this path by creating space for dialogue with expert society and providing policy advice.

One of the highlights of this reporting period was that GFSIS restored a series of public discussions on Nordic-Baltic experience sharing in partnership with the Estonian School of Diplomacy (ESD).

In addition, the Foundation has been actively engaged in the work of the EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform (CSP) since 2016, and the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) since 2011. These allow civil society organizations from both sides to monitor the implementation process and prepare their recommendations to the relevant authorities in both Georgia and the European Union.

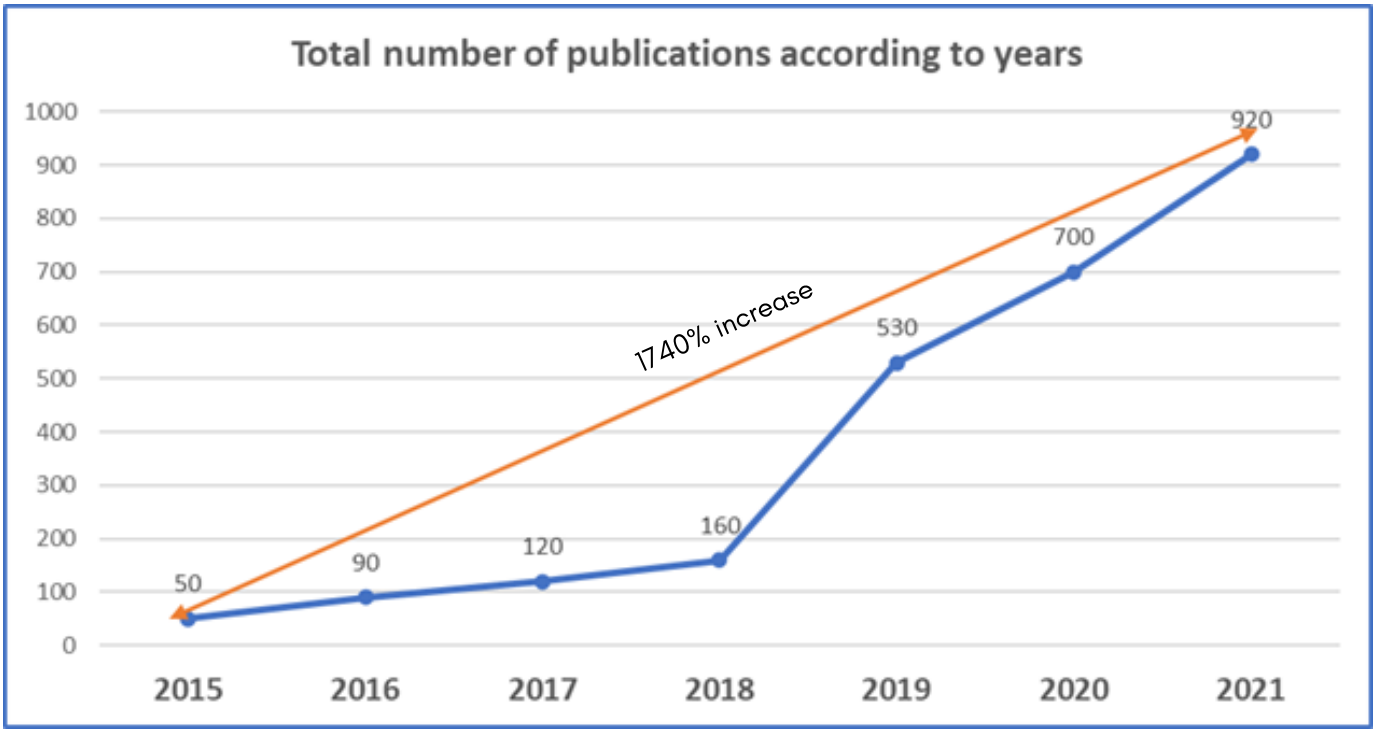
Awareness-raising about European and Euro-Atlantic integration, as well as anti-Western propaganda, is an integral component of activities with participating youth and minorities in the regions.

5th President of Estonia, Kersti Kaljulaid discussing NATO-EU Strategic Partnership: Challenges and Advantages for the public discussion, November 2021

The Rondeli Foundation Publications

As a think-tank, the Foundation responds to the emerging threats and challenges in the region through its wide range of publications and research papers. All of these are part of an integral approach that aims to inform the Georgian government and civil society about the major regional developments and emerging threats, as well as to provide policy advice and recommendations to the decision-makers.

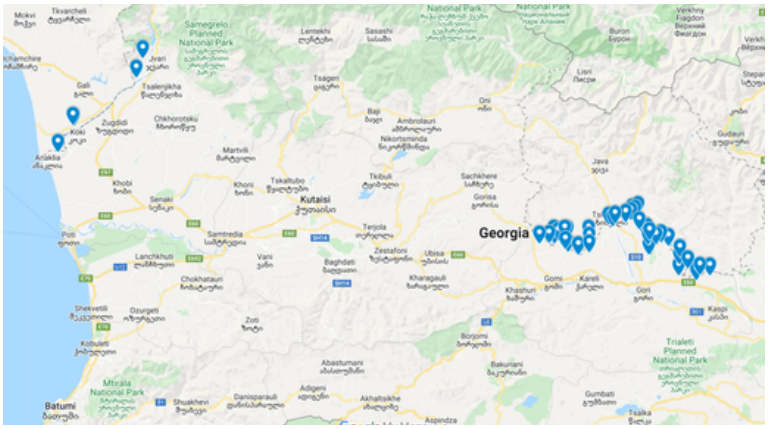
Under the strategic direction of strengthening resilience against Russian propaganda and disinformation efforts, GFSIS research continued unveiling historical facts about the Russian Empire's colonial policy in the South Caucasus and the North Caucasus with the **North Caucasus Broadcaster** and Russian Expansion in the Caucasus and Georgia publications. Compared to 2015, overall, the number of publications published on the GFSIS webpage has increased 18 times.

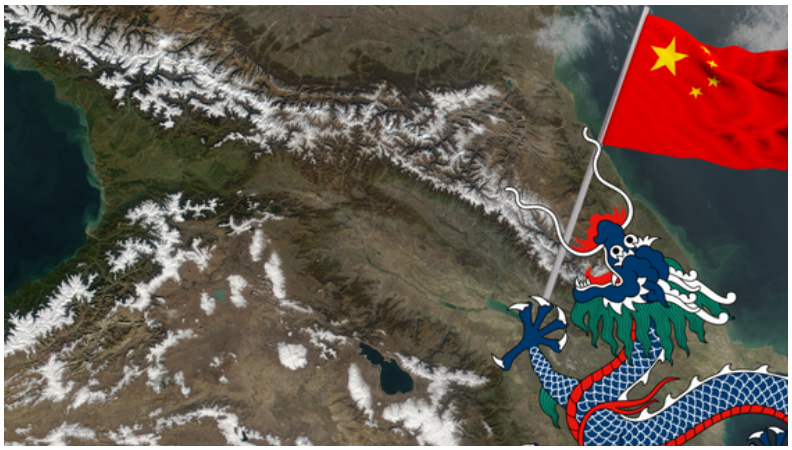


New products added in 2021

The Calendar of the Democratic Republic of Georgia (1918-1921) provides excerpts from archived Georgian newspapers dating back to Georgia's first years of independence. These aim to contribute to constructive dialogue for the future of Georgia through sharing knowledge of the modern state's early political history.

The Map of Borderization illustrates Russia's policy of creeping annexation of the Georgian occupied regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia since 2011 by pinning the locations of illegal fences, earthen barriers, barbed wires, so-called border signs and fire lines on the map.





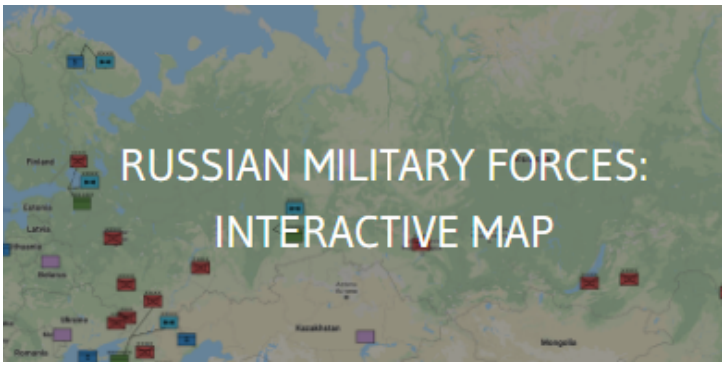
China Radar: South Caucasus A monthly publication built on the China's Activities digest, providing a comprehensive summary of China's political, diplomatic, economic, informational, soft power and other activities towards Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

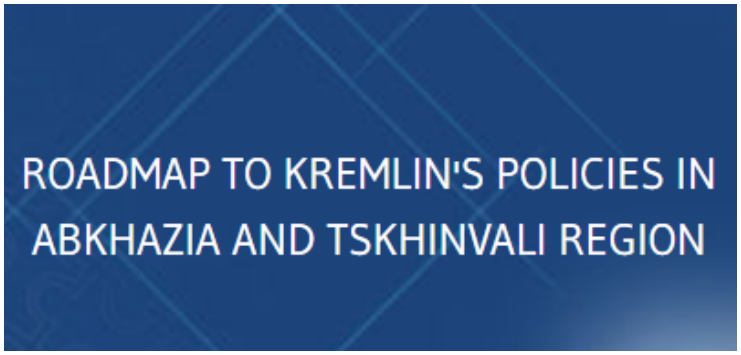
The North Caucasus Broadcaster A bi-weekly digest that describes important political, economic, social and cultural developments in the North Caucasus republics. The purpose of monitoring the headline news in the region is to observe the main political and social trends in the region.

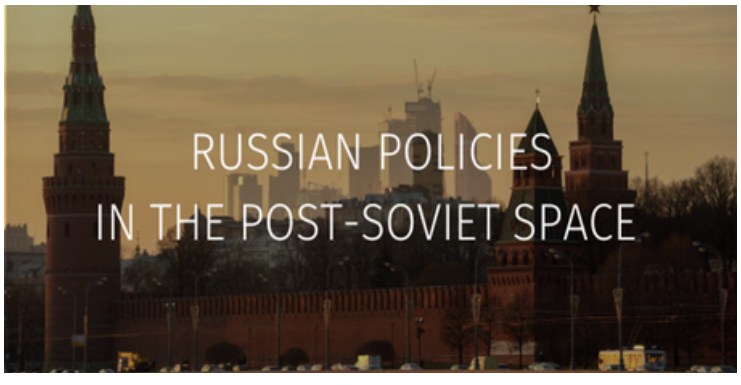
Russia Monitor

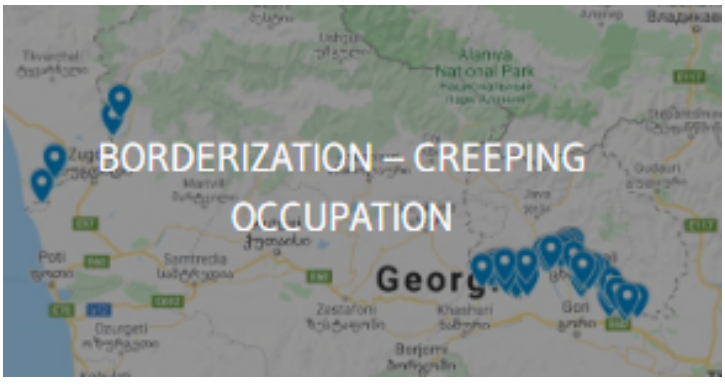
The Rondeli Foundation observes Russia's armed forces and military policy, its actions towards its neighbors, and its global strategy, through the 'Russia Monitor,' which is a group of Rondeli Foundation projects dedicated to the monitoring and understanding of modern Russia's foreign strategy. It enables readers to closely follow Russia's military, diplomatic, informational and other activities beyond its borders that have an impact on its neighbors, on the West, and on the global international system. More importantly, it also allows us to observe Moscow's policy in Georgia's two regions currently occupied by Russia.

The projects under the Russia Monitor are listed below:









Public Outreach

Public awareness-raising on recent developments in the region, existing security threats, and international affairs through outreach activities are among the key components of the Foundation's strategic direction. The conferences, webinars, workshops, public discussions, and roundtables contribute to qualified policy decision-making, and increase civil society's engagement in the policy development process.

For instance, security conferences organized annually since 2005 has become one of the top international security platforms in the region bringing together experts and policymakers from Europe, US, Russia, Middle East, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Public Discussion - "A Year After the Second Karabakh War - The Changing Balance in the South Caucasus", December 2021

On February 23, for a fourth consecutive year, GFSIS, in close cooperation with the Ukrainian Embassy in Georgia, organized the webinar - Deoccupation of Ukraine and Georgia: Joint Efforts of Both States, International Organizations and Civil Society Institutions - dedicated to the 7th anniversary of the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

Research Presentation

On December 16, the findings of the research Attitudes and Perceptions Towards Russia in Georgia and Towards Georgia in Russia were presented to a large audience in a hybrid event format. Representatives of media, diplomatic missions, the expert community, civil society and academia attended the event.
Two separate research papers were published to obtain knowledge of the attitudes and opinions on mutual relations, internal and external problems, and the image of these countries:

- Attitudes and Perceptions Towards Russia in Georgia
- Attitudes and Perceptions Towards Georgia in Russia

The goal of both studies was to better understand public knowledge, attitudes and perceptions vis-à-vis the research topics as they exist in each country between different age groups. The project was initiated by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Friedrich-EbertStiftung, FES) and implemented by GFSIS and the Moscow-based Institute for Comparative Social Research (CESSI).

Rondeli Multimedia Projects

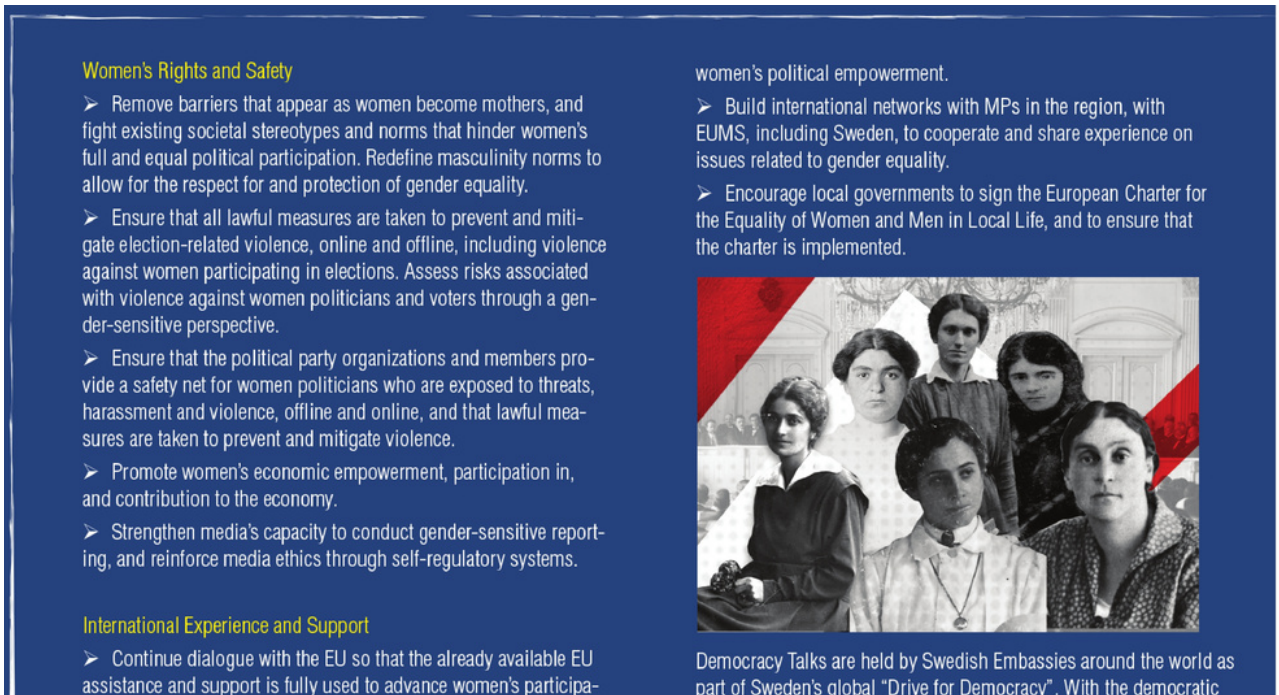
During the last two years, the pandemic has significantly restricted our outreach activities. Yet, on the other hand, it served as a big motivation for us to come up with new project ideas. As a result, public discussions held at GFSIS and in the regions were replaced by different multimedia formats. The Foundation continued producing Rondeli Radio Discussions in partnership with regional radio stations Radio Atinati (Zugdidi), Radio Dzveli Kalaki (Kutaisi), and Radio Mosaic (Gori). Additionally, a new project was introduced - a series of video interviews, **The Rondeli Review**, which offers in-house analysis of ongoing issues of national and foreign policy.

Further, a new weekly radio program **Rondeli World Radar** was initiated in cooperation with Radio Freedom (Tbilisi), which assesses important international developments with GFSIS Senior Fellow Alex Petriashvili.

Women Empowerment

GFSIS focuses on enhancing the inclusion of women in electoral process to overcome glass ceiling barriers. One of the highlights was the online conference Democracy Talks Georgia: Women in Politics – Local Elections 2021 and Beyond held on June 8, 2021, in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden in Tbilisi, in a joint effort to strengthen gender equality in public and political life as part of Sweden's Global Drive for the Democracy Campaign Worldwide. Georgian women politicians, together with their Swedish counterparts, as well as representatives of civil society, academia and media, over three hours discussed topics of gender equality from different perspectives.

Upon completion of the event, GFSIS and the Embassy of Sweden jointly developed a list of recommendations for political parties on how to strengthen gender equality internally in the run up to the 2021 local elections and beyond. Bilingual leaflets were made and disseminated among all political parties, the Parliament of Georgia and the expert community.



Women's Rights and Safety

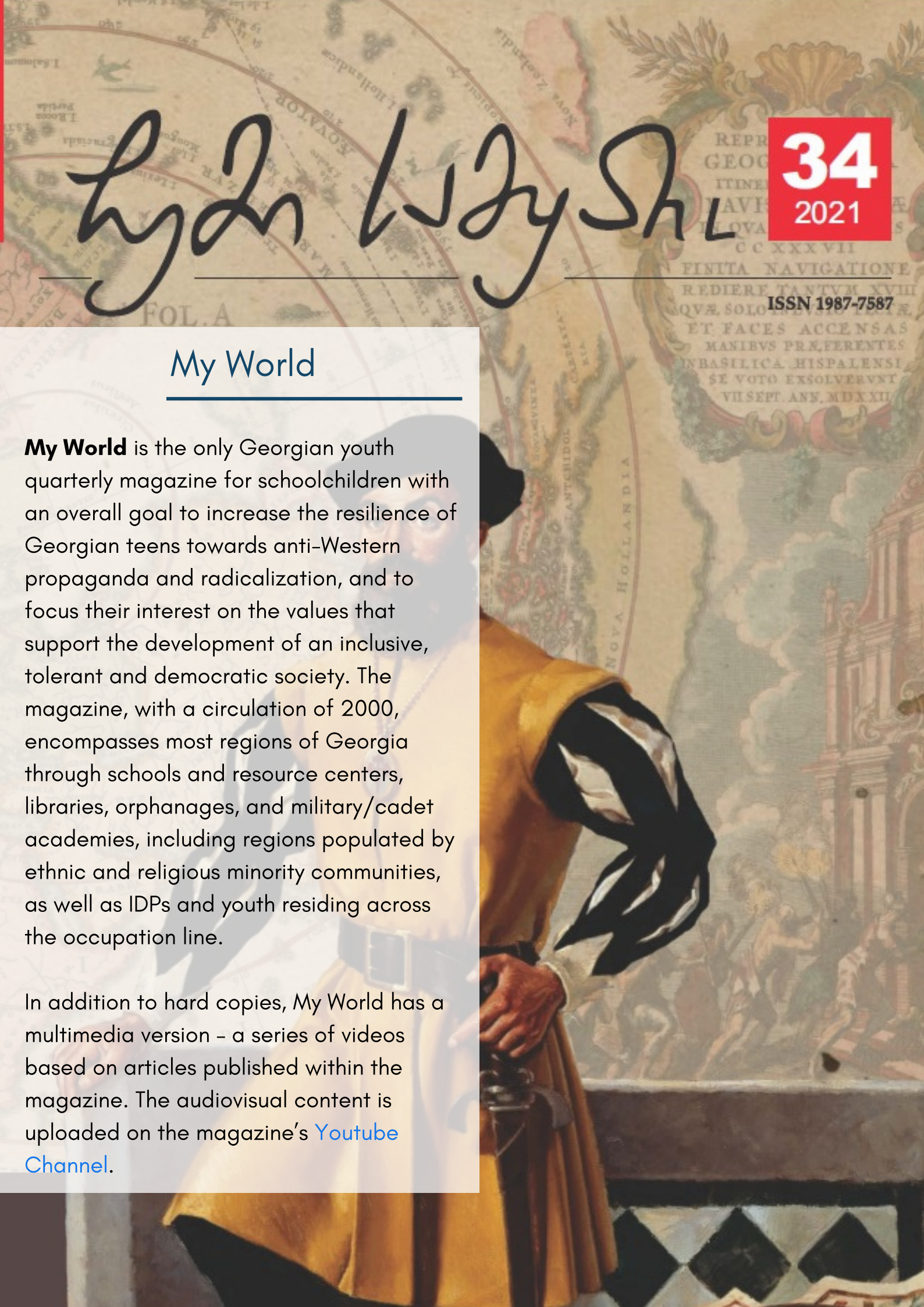
- Remove barriers that appear as women become mothers, and fight existing societal stereotypes and norms that hinder women's full and equal political participation. Redefine masculinity norms to allow for the respect for and protection of gender equality.
- Ensure that all lawful measures are taken to prevent and mitigate election-related violence, online and offline, including violence against women participating in elections. Assess risks associated with violence against women politicians and voters through a gender-sensitive perspective.
- Ensure that the political party organizations and members provide a safety net for women politicians who are exposed to threats, harassment and violence, offline and online, and that lawful measures are taken to prevent and mitigate violence.
- Promote women's economic empowerment, participation in, and contribution to the economy.
- Strengthen media's capacity to conduct gender-sensitive reporting, and reinforce media ethics through self-regulatory systems.

International Experience and Support

- Continue dialogue with the EU so that the already available EU assistance and support is fully used to advance women's participa-

women's political empowerment.

- Build international networks with MPs in the region, with EUMS, including Sweden, to cooperate and share experience on issues related to gender equality.
- Encourage local governments to sign the European Charter for the Equality of Women and Men in Local Life, and to ensure that the charter is implemented.



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2021
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My World

My World is the only Georgian youth quarterly magazine for schoolchildren with an overall goal to increase the resilience of Georgian teens towards anti-Western propaganda and radicalization, and to focus their interest on the values that support the development of an inclusive, tolerant and democratic society. The magazine, with a circulation of 2000, encompasses most regions of Georgia through schools and resource centers, libraries, orphanages, and military/cadet academies, including regions populated by ethnic and religious minority communities, as well as IDPs and youth residing across the occupation line.

In addition to hard copies, My World has a multimedia version - a series of videos based on articles published within the magazine. The audiovisual content is uploaded on the magazine's Youtube Channel.

Rondeli Award for Security Excellence

The Foundation for the first time announced an open call for the **Rondeli Award for Security Excellence** (RASE), which aims to encourage IR students to pursue their studies and enhance their knowledge further. Two undergraduate students from Tbilisi Free University and Tbilisi State University were selected for a year-long monthly stipend. In addition to financial support, the awardees have exclusive access to the Foundation's academic resources, facilities, and alumni network.

Undergraduate students, Erekle Gpzalishvili and Nika Khomeriki were awarded with Rondeli Award at the Security Conference

Unlike the previous year, in 2021, GFSIS was able to resume its support to international scholars and students with a major in international relations and research focus on the post-soviet space. The internship gives opportunities to young foreign scholars interested in the developments in the Caucasus to carry out their research using GFSIS facilities. Within this reporting period, five international scholars took on an internship at GFSIS.

Financial Statement

Consolidated statement of financial position
As of 31 December 2021
(in GEL)

	2021	2020
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property and Equipment	628,919	678,779
Intangible Assets	101	101
TOTAL non-Current Assets	**629,020**	**678,880**
CURRESNT ASSETS		
Inventories	177,699	87,946
Receivables from Exchange Trsnasactions	40	660
Advance Paid	24,320	2,385
Taxes Recovarable and Prepaid	229,661	130,819
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,967,623	2,447,038
TOTAL Current Assets	**4,399,343**	**2,668,848**
TOTAL ASSETS	**5,028,363**	**3,347,728**
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payambles from Exchange Transation	3,987	2,003
Income Tax Payable		
Total Current Liabilities	**3,987**	**2,003**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**3,987**	**2,003**
NET ASSETS		
Charter Capital	1,500	1,500
Accumulated Surplus and Unused Funds	5,022,876	3,344,225
TOTAL Net Assets	**5,024,376**	**3,345,725**
TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	**5,028,363**	**3,347,728**

Deliotte & Touche has conducted an audit for Rondeli Foundation's financial statement

RONDELI FOUNDATION

www.gfsis.org