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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Regional Literacy Conference Addressing “*Literacy Challenges
in Europe with a sub-regional focus:*”

Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches.

(Baku, Azerbaijan, 14-16 May 2008)

“Adult Education Centers
in Samtshke-Javakheti (South Georgia)
a Chance of Integration of Minorities”



United Nations Literacy Decade

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

Presented at the UNESCO Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy "Addressing Literacy Challenges in Europe with a sub-regional focus: Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches", 14-16 May 2008, Baku, Azerbaijan

Programme name: Adult Education Centers in Samtskhe-Javakheti (South Georgia) - a Chance of Integration of Minorities

Implemented by: Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (dvv international)

Basic facts

Country: Georgia

Starting year: 2006

Outreach: From the opening of the Centres (September 2006) till the end of 2006: more than 700 learners; during 2007: ca. 3,500 learners

Target Population: Adult population of the region, especially ethnic/religious minorities

Languages of instruction: Georgian, Russian and Armenian

Operating in: two Adult Learning Centers, in Akhaltsikhe and Akhalkalaki

Main Funding: European Commission

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Brief description

Samtskhe-Javakheti is one of the regions of Georgia characterized by high ethnic and religious diversity. Representatives of ethnic minorities (mainly Armenians) make up the majority of the population in the region. The majority of the population in Samtskhe-Javakheti does not master the national language Georgian. Additionally, geographic isolation, generally harsh economic situations, unemployment and lack of investments are worsening their living conditions. Due to the low economic, social and cultural interactions between

this region and the rest of the country, there are some problems of integration in this region.

The Project's overall objective is the protection of rights of different ethnic and religious minorities living in Samtskhe-Javakheti and the reintegration of these minorities into the country's society. The Project's specific objective is to increase the level of participation by the local population in Samtskhe-Javakheti (especially representatives of minorities) in public, economic and cultural life of the region and the country.

The basic goal of the Adult Education Centers carrying out the project is to assist the population in raising their level of knowledge in different fields, and in receiving free legal consultations. Various vocational training and computer courses are offered. Courses in the Georgian language, in civic education and on the basics of private entrepreneurship are promoting the creation of more active participation in society among the local communities.

Different cultural events, debate clubs, lectures, seminars, meetings with interesting people, exhibitions, fairs, etc., promote inter-cultural and inter-ethnic mutual understanding.