



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA



LEPL ENVIRONMENTAL
INFORMATION AND
EDUCATION CENTRE

THE LEPL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE



TBILISI
2023

CONSTITUTION OF GEORGIA

ARTICLE 29: RIGHT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Everyone has the right to live in a healthy environment and enjoy the natural environment and public space. Everyone has the right to receive full information about the state of the environment in a timely manner. Everyone has the right to care for the protection of the environment. The right to participate in the adoption of decisions related to the environment shall be ensured by law.



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შვედეთი
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Prepared by the Environmental Information and Education Centre (EIEC) of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) with support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Georgia and Sweden.

THE TEAM OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE GUIDES ITS ACTIVITIES WITH THE FOLLOWING VALUES:

We aspire to be constant innovators in environmental and agricultural knowledge transfer and advocacy. We periodically evaluate our activities, and based on the key findings, we make plans to advance our activities.

We support strengthening environmental and agricultural education through informal and non-formal education, promote coordination between stakeholders and raise environmental and agricultural awareness so that each citizen has a responsible attitude towards the environment, and thus, makes a significant contribution to the sustainable development of the country.

FREEDOM

We create an environment where each team member has the opportunity to maximize their full potential and is free to create and transfer knowledge.

DIVERSITY

We are open to cooperate with all stakeholders and people with diverse experiences and points of view. We discuss various issues, approaches, ideas, suggestions, and perspectives.

COOPERATION AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Our partners are both national and international organizations and it supports us to create and share knowledge in the environmental and agricultural direction based on international experience.

TAKING CARE OF THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT

Every step of our initiatives is aimed at the sustainable development of the country. We take care to lead the public engagement process in a way that ensures their proper participation in environmental related matters and promotes shaping the responsible skills.

HISTORY

HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The history of environmental education begins in the seventies of the 20th century. The international community set the goals, objectives, and principles of environmental education for the first time in the Belgrade Charter of 1975, which was developed at the first international intergovernmental conference “On Environmental Education” held in Tbilisi in 1977.

At the conference, the “Tbilisi Declaration” was developed and within this document the structure of the formal and informal environmental education system was established at the local, national, and international levels.

Environmental education was clearly defined as “a learning process that leads to an increased human knowledge and awareness on the environmental and related challenges, develops the necessary skills and expert knowledge to solve challenges, and stimulates attitudes, motivations, and commitments to make well-reasoned decisions and implement responsible actions”.

Environmental education is one of the main mechanisms for solving environmental challenges

INVOLVEMENT OF THE SOCIETY IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

The Convention of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) “On access to information related to environmental issues, public participation in the decision-making process, and access to justice in this area” (Aarhus Convention) is considered as a democracy strengthening tool.

Georgia was one of the first countries to ratify the Aarhus Convention (2000). By ratifying, the country undertook the obligation to implement the three principles recognised by the convention: access to information, public participation in the decision-making process, and access to justice.

The participant and facilitator of these processes is the Environmental Information and Education Centre, established in 2013 on the basis of the Aarhus Centre. The mandate of the Centre considers promoting environmental and agricultural education, raising environmental awareness, ensuring public involvement in the decision-making process and access to environmental and agricultural information.

These topics are central in a number of international agreements and processes not only in terms of the protection of the environment, but also of human health and the promotion of environmental democracy.

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE

The Environmental Information and Education Centre is a legal entity under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, established on May 14, 2013, on the basis of the Aarhus Centre.

The main goals of the EIEC are following:

- Promote environmental and agricultural education of society and awareness raising
- Promote public involvement in the environmental decision-making process
- Ensure access to environmental and agricultural information
- Encourage environmental and agricultural topics to promote sustainable development goals

In order to implement the above mentioned goals, the Centre has been actively working with various target groups for years, both in the direction of education and awareness raising.

The EIEC carries out its activities in accordance with the “Regulation of the Environmental Information and Education Centre of a Public Law Legal Entity”. At the same time, the Centre operates in accordance with the internal regulation of the Centre, the principles of the Aarhus Convention and the legislation of Georgia.

Within its activities, the EIEC shares the goals of the United Nations Sustainable Development, and the visions and approaches of the “Education for Sustainable Development” strategy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In accordance with the principles of the “Education for Sustainable Development” strategy, the EIEC ensures the promotion of formal, informal, and non-official education in the environmental and agricultural fields, strengthening the capacities of farmers, educational institutions, and other stakeholders working on environmental issues through the, training programs, learning courses, and educational and informational materials. Moreover, the EIEC strengthens the abilities of the employees under the MEPA system and improves their capacities.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The activities of the Environmental Information and Education Centre play an important role in promoting the achievement of sustainable development goals at the national level. The EIEC implements programmes in preschool, school, vocational, and higher environmental and agricultural education while developing educational materials and implementing awareness campaigns, supports all Sustainable Development Goals, especially by actively implementing programmes within the following goals:



THE QUALITY POLICY

The Centre constantly strives to increase the effectiveness of its activities by involving both local and foreign experts and closely cooperating with national and international organizations. In the process of providing the service, the legal and regulatory requirements are respected, and the needs of the consumers are explored. Based on the analysis of customer satisfaction research, the quality improvement is made. In order to support the mainstreaming of gender equality issues, the MEPA conducts relevant training for its employees. The building of the EIEC includes spaces for learning and working processes that are adapted for persons with disabilities.

Acquire knowledge and skills to create a better environment.



THE EMPLOYMENT POLICY

The employment policy of the Environmental Information and Education Centre is aimed at increasing the competitiveness of human resources and expanding the field of labor activity. For this purpose, the Centre announces vacancies and recruits new staff through open competition in accordance with the law of Georgia on “Public Service”. Applications for employment applicants are available on the website of the Public Service Bureau (hr.gov.ge) as well as on the official website of the EIEC (eiec.gov.ge).

Each staff member of the Centre is given the opportunity to improve their qualifications and advance their career.

Based on the active educational activity, the EIEC has developed the criteria for the selection of field experts in order to create a unified base of trainers in various fields of environmental protection and agriculture, according to which the contest was announced. At this stage, 129 trainers have been selected from the 164 candidates who took part in the contest. They are members of the Centre’s unified base of trainers and are employed in the training and learning courses planned by the Centre as needed. The base of trainers’ is updated every year. In addition, the Centre constantly tries to support young people interested in environmental issues by developing their professional skills in theoretical and practical directions. For this purpose, the EIEC periodically announces internship and practice programmes, within which motivated young people are selected based on interviews and they are involved in the Centre’s daily activities.

IRINA KUTATELADZE

“One of the first and most important steps forward in my career are being associated with the Environmental Information and Education Centre.

In 2017, when I began my internship at the EIEC, I understood I had been given a wonderful opportunity to work with my profession using my theoretical knowledge in practice. This was my first work experience in civil service and during 5 years I worked as an intern, project assistant, project coordinator, chief specialist of the environmental information service, and acting head of the environmental information service. I believe that while working in the Centre, I went through an interesting and diverse way and got a valuable experience that helped me become a qualified staff member and raised my self-confidence to take more risks and succeed in my professional development. Currently I work for the National Environment Agency, one of the most significant state agencies in the field of environmental protection, and I believe that with the experience I’ve gained and the new challenges I face, I can contribute even more to protect the environment and repair environmental damage.



Based on the intense educational activities, EIEC developed the criteria for the selection of field experts in order to create a unified base of trainers in the fields of environmental protection and agriculture, according to which the competition has been announced. At this stage, 129 trainers have been selected from the 164 candidates participating in the competition, who are members of the Centres unified base of trainers and are employed in the trainings and training courses planned by the EIEC, as needed.

The unified base of trainers is updating annually.



IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

Acquire knowledge and skills to create a better environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

The Environmental Information and Education Centre actively cooperates with international partners, including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Swedish International Development cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), European Union (EU), German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Westminster Fund for Democracy (WFD), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Nature International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Governments of Sweden, Switzerland, Germany and Japan, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and others.



TAMAR ALADASHVILI

DIRECTOR OF LEPL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE

“Cooperation with international partners is crucial in promoting right and result-oriented environmental and agricultural education. Georgia is a party to more than 30 multilateral environmental agreements, and we take great responsibility for the fulfillment of our obligations.

Projects implemented with the support of international partners contribute to encouraging public involvement, access to information, and the formation of a reasonable and sustainable development-oriented human attitude towards environmental protection and agriculture at all stages of constant education.

Acquire knowledge and skills to create a better environment.



From the People of Japan



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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



WHAT DOES THE EIEC OFFER TO INTERESTED PERSONS?

- ▶ Vocational education programmes
- ▶ “Preschool environmental education” programme
- ▶ “Environmental and agricultural education at School” programme
- ▶ Environmental and agricultural youth programmes
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Lectures and seminars
- ▶ Informational meetings, campaigns, and thematic contests
- ▶ Online training courses
- ▶ Certificate exams

WHO CAN USE THE SERVICES OF THE EIEC?

- ▶ Pupils
- ▶ Students
- ▶ Practitioners of preschool institutions
- ▶ Teachers
- ▶ Refrigeration technicians
- ▶ Devices containing fluorinated greenhouse gasses
- ▶ Service technicians and legal and entrepreneurial individuals
- ▶ Young people interested in environmental and agricultural topics
- ▶ The staff of The MEPA and its subordinate agencies
- ▶ Farmers
- ▶ Any person interested in environmental and agricultural topics

SERVICES

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER

Teaching Format: **The theoretical part is allowed online or face-to-face**

The practical part: - **face-to-face only**

The target group - **any interested person**

duration - **4 weeks**

Contact person - **Nana Dvali**

E-mail: **nana.dvali@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 577282226**

The Environmental Manager course is intended for persons seeking to study in-depth the duties and abilities that an Environmental Manager must possess in order to comply with the Waste Management Code. The legislation mandates the creation and implementation of waste management plans, thus the course is also meant for persons and legal entities who work for businesses or organizations that generate various sorts of waste. The course is led by professionals with many years of experience employed in the public sector, as well as environmental experts working in the private sector.

For a better understanding of the obligations of the environmental manager, participants will pass such key issues as waste management, management code and related obligations, inspection procedures, and law enforcement within the course.

The course consists of both theoretical and practical parts.

Along with theoretical training, trainees will work in an electronic system and carry out learning/simulation inspections. During the course, the participants will be tested, and the results of practical assignments will be evaluated. In the event of a positive assessment, a certificate confirming the completion of the course will be issued.

ALVERD CHANQSELIANI

TRAINER

Head of the Waste and Chemical Substances Management Department of the MEPA



"One of the top priorities in the area of environmental protection is the development and implementation of a modern waste management system. Private businesses need to educate and advance the qualifications of relevant staff in the field of waste management in order to meet the requirements of the Waste Management Code and contemporary norms. I have no doubt that the accredited "Environmental Manager" course is an excellent opportunity for interested persons to gain sufficient knowledge and practical experience from qualified professionals who are working in relevant field, that will enable them to carry out their duties successfully. The private company will benefit from the "environmental manager strengthened capabilities because as it allows to have a certified and knowledgeable staff in such a challenging sector as environmental protection.

Required steps to complete the program

- 01** Registration on the website (www.vet.emis.ge) of the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
- 02** Interviews with the relevant commission
- 03** Passing the theoretical and practical components of the course
- 04** Passing testing
- 05** Practical tasks
- 06** Obtaining a certificate

FOREST INVENTORY AND TAXATION

Teaching format: **the theoretical part is allowed online or face-to-face**

Practical part: **face-to-face only**

Target group: **persons with a bachelor's degree in forestry and/or related fields**

Duration of the programme: **12 weeks**

Contact person - **Nino Tabatadze**

E-mail: **nino.tabatadze@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 577610972**

The Forest Inventory and Taxation Programme aims to increase the basic knowledge of forests as well as the skills and knowledge required to carry out forest inventory and taxation in field conditions.

Working with cartographic materials, gathering information on quantitative and qualitative forest indicators under field conditions, analyzing and processing, camera treatment, selecting forestry and agricultural measures, and creating documentation, including the inventory's final output, a forest management plan, are all steps in the process of conducting a forest inventory.

The programme includes both theoretical and practical, as well as field training, and is carried out in the forest fund of the LEPL National Forestry Agency. During field training, the training load is 40 hours per week and involves performing inventory work, both in coniferous and mixed forests.

Within the programme, the deterministic assessment is carried out twice and involves an oral or written survey and the implementation of the project—drawing up a forest management plan based on forest inventory indicators.

Confirmation of deterministic assessments is a prerequisite for issuing a certificate.

NATIA IORDANISHVILI

TRAINER, DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL FORESTRY AGENCY



"One of the biggest problems facing the forestry industry is a lack of qualified workers. As the sector has been a low priority for many years, the demand for professional foresters has decreased, the profession has lost its popularity among young people and as a result we have a generational gap. After the beginning of the large-scale reforms in the sector, this problem became even more visible. For this purpose, a number of steps have been taken: the legal framework has been adjusted, the institutional arrangement of forest management bodies and other capabilities has been improved, and the scope of forestry measures has been renewed and increased; however, effective law enforcement and forestry management require an appropriate number of specialists, and their deficit was most evident during the renewal of forest inventory works."

Forest inventory is a necessary prerequisite for sustainable forest management, during which the quantitative and qualitative indicators of forests are assessed and the necessary forestry measures are planned. Most crucially, it is a permanent process that must be constantly monitored and the new Forest Code defines it as a mandatory procedure. The field and cameral work of forest inventory requires forestry education, specific knowledge, and experience so the demand for such staff will be constantly increasing.

The forest inventory and taxation learning program, on the one hand, contributes to the development of forestry education in the country and, on the other hand, provides sufficient human resources for the quality and rapid implementation of forest inventory.

The learning course, which is authorized by the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement is an opportunity, especially for young people, to acquire additional knowledge and use it in one of the most interesting and responsible activity, the preservation and improvement of the national treasure of the country—the forest"

Required steps to complete the program

- 01** Registration on the website (vet.emis.ge) of the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement
- 02** interviews with the relevant commission
- 03** passing the theoretical and practical components of the course
- 04** written or oral inquiry
- 05** Project execution
- 06** Obtaining a certificate

CLIMATE-SMART PLANNING OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Teaching format: **the theoretical part is allowed online or face-to-face**

Target group - **any interested person.**

Duration - **6 weeks**

Contact person: **Nino Tabatadze**

E-mail: **nino.tabatadze@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 577610972**

The programme is intended for people interested in developing the relevant competencies (knowledge and skills) in order to understand and deal with the challenges of climate change in the agricultural sector. Programme consists:

- Review of agro-ecological and climatic zones in Georgia
- Get acquainted with the established practises in horticulture and animal husbandry, taking into account the current climatic conditions
- Definition of climate change scenarios
- Discussing the impact of climate change and its primary effect on agriculture
- The essence and purpose of climate-smart agriculture and its main characteristics

The general goal of the programme is for the student to be able, by determining the main characteristics of agro-ecological zones and taking into account soil-climatic conditions and climate change, to promote the introduction of climate-smart agriculture and sustainable agricultural practises in the priority areas of selected agricultural activities (planting and animal husbandry).

NINO DEKANOIDZE

TRAINER, HEAD OF REGIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (RDA), EXPERT ON EDUCATION QUALITY DEVELOPMENT ACCREDITATION

"Climate change has a great impact on the environment and creates new challenges in agriculture. It is crucial to overcome the problems mentioned above for sustainable development. Accordingly, a new approach was established: climate-smart agriculture. In this field, the introduction of modern approaches is important to improve the agriculture of Georgia and reduce the negative impact on the environment and farmers' expenses on mechanisation. These are the approaches that led to the creation of the climate-smart agriculture educational programme."



Required steps to complete the program

- 01 Registration on the website of the National Centre for Education Quality Development (www.vet.emis.ge)**
- 02 Interview with the relevant commission**
- 03 Passing the theoretical and practical components of the course**
- 04 Written/Oral Questionnaire**
- 05 Obtaining a certificate**

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PRESCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Teaching formats: **both online and face-to-face**

Target group: **practitioners of preschool institutions of the programme**

Duration: **1 day**

Contact person - **Ketevan Orvelashvili**

E-mail: **ketevani.orvelashvili@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 577951851**

The programme “Preschool Environmental Education” was developed in accordance with the environmental component of the state standard of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, and includes the following topics:

- The biodiversity around us
- Saving water and energy resources
- Waste management
- Climate change

The program aims to promote the formation of environmental awareness among preschool children. After successful completion of the course, the practitioner will receive a certificate and a supporting manual developed within the program.

NINO TABATADZE

ACTING HEAD OF THE EDUCATION PROJECTS SERVICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE

TRAINER

“The preschool environmental education manual developed within the school readiness programme is being successfully implemented throughout Georgia. Working with kindergarten practitioners is a responsible and pleasant process for me because the formation of environmental awareness among the future generation mostly depends on them.”



TAMAR KAKHURASHVILI

FINALIST OF THE CONTEST “GREEN AWARD 2022”, EDUCATOR IN KINDERGARTEN N. 37, TBILISI

“Despite having little experience teaching preschool children, I quickly realised that the environmental subjects were the ones that aroused childrens interests the most, as indicated by their involvement and the feedback I got from both the kids and their parents. The next 7-year practice convinced me that the “Preschool Environmental Education Programme” is one of the most interesting, with topical issues, diverse and fun activities, and modern and effective methodology that contributes to the children’s personal growth and their formation asf an environmentally caring citizens”



Required steps to complete the program

01

Registration on the website of the Environmental Information and Education Centre (eiec.gov.ge)

02

Complete the programme course

03

Obtaining the certificate and supporting manual

ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AT SCHOOL

Teaching format: **online**

Duration: **8 days**

Target group: **elementary level, geography, and civil education teachers**

Contact person - **Ketevan Orvelashvili**

E-mail: **ketevani.orvelashvili@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 577951851**

The programme was developed by the Environmental Information and Education Centre in 2020, and it aims to strengthen the capacity of teachers through training according to the relevant guidelines. The training course includes such important subjects as:

- Sustainable development
- Protection of biodiversity
- Protection of water resources
- Air protection from pollution
- Climate change and reduction of natural hazards
- Waste management
- Land Management and the fight against desertification
- Agriculture, food safety, and quality

The training course “Environmental Protection and agricultural education at School” was granted a 20-hour mandatory training status by the The National Center for Professional Development of Teachers of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia on the basis of a memorandum of mutual understanding. After completion of the course teachers will have the opportunity to fully integrate the aforementioned topics into their teaching process. Teachers who successfully complete the course will be awarded certificates and a set of support materials titled “Environmental Protection and Agricultural Education at School.”

NINO GETIASHVILI

**BIOLOGY TEACHER AT THE KACHRETI
N1 PUBLIC SCHOOL**

“I believe environmental education is the most important process in modern teaching. Working in this direction is not new for me; however, the knowledge and skills I received during the training organized by the Environmental Information and Education Centre were very useful for me as a teacher. The manual “Environmental and Agricultural Education in School” is the best supporting material to ensure quality education for future generations.”



NINO GULMAGARASHVILI

TRAINER

“It is already the second year that I have been involved in the implementation of a large-scale programme, “Environmental and agricultural education at School. Teachers learn new skills, gain experience, and develop their courage during the programme. They get expertise on how to create complex tasks and projects that will aid students in acquiring the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and values essential for sustainable development. I am further encouraged by the thanksgiving letters I receive at the end of each training.”



Acquire knowledge and skills to create a better environment.

Acquire knowledge and skills to create a better environment.



8 BOOKS

ALL TEACHERS SHOULD HAVE

Required steps to complete the program

- 01** Registration on the website of the Environmental Information and Education Centre (eiec.gov.ge)
- 02** Receiving the electronic link and instructions for attending the training from the EIEC, confirmation of participation in the training on the dates proposed by the Centre
- 03** Completing the course
- 04** Writing independently project idea or fulfillment of the complex task
- 05** Receiving an electronic certificate for completion of the programme
- 06** Withdrawal of the certificate and related manual from the facility

ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AT SCHOOL

The programme “Environmental and Agricultural Education at School” is the winner of the “VET Excellence Award for Special Achievement in Vocational Education.”

The winner was revealed via public voting within the contest “European Vocational Skills Week 2022” organized by the European Commission. The program “Environmental and Agricultural Education at School” won among the European Organizations in the Green Skills category of the European Education Fund (ETF) contest VET Excellence Award.

In order to present and recognize the best practices throughout Europe, the VET Excellence Award unites various private and civil organizations, schools, and vocational education institutions, that share their experience and histories of successful business activities with representatives of various fields.



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ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMMES FOR YOUTH

Students are one of the main target audiences of the Environmental Information and Education Centre, which is why three youth programmes have been developed on the basis of the EIEC: the Ecoleaders School, the Forestry School and the Agroschool.

ECOLEADERS SCHOOL

Teaching format: theoretical part - **online**, practical part - **face-to-face**

Target group: **IX-XII grade students of public and private schools**

Duration of the programme: **2 months, two meetings per week through online format.**

Contact Person: **Ana Tsatsanashvili**

E-mail: **ana.tsatsanashvili@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 555204321**

The Ecoleaders School is a training programme developed by the EIEC with the purpose of teaching the young generation about environmental issues and raising their awareness in this field. Interested and motivated young people are given the opportunity:

- To deepen knowledge in the environmental field through modern teaching methods
- To learn about the challenges and countermeasures in the field
- Acquire like-minded people and together with them carry out interesting projects
- Actively participate in the events organized by the Environmental Information and Education Centre in the future

ANI SHAMATAVA

ECOLEADER

"About four years ago, I started to get interested in environmental issues. I'm always seeking assignments that will help me advance both my theoretical understanding and my practical skills. During the search process I discovered the Ecoleaders School application. I enjoyed the information so much that I filled out the form without giving it any thought.

After passing both tests, I was informed that I had joined a large family of professionals and motivated, driven youth and experts who were working tirelessly to increase our consciousness. In general, the project is unique in that it aids the next generation in recognising environmental issues in their community and seeking solutions. Along with my theoretical and practical expertise, the project taught me priceless interpersonal skills. I gained abilities in leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, and quick decision-making in challenging situations through taking part in training and role-playing games.

I gained self-assurance, and now I can say with certainty that the project was one of the causes that inspired me to choose the field of international environmental law as my future career. The School of Ecoleaders is a stepping stone to achievement, in my opinion."



The number of young people who want to participate in EcoLeaders School is increasing every year, and their selection is based on a contest. The lectures of the training course are conducted by representatives of the Environmental Information and Education Centre and invited speakers. Within the educational programme for IX-XII classes students will study topics such as:

- Human environmental rights
- Importance of waste management

- Biodiversity protection mechanisms
- Climate change and reducing the risk of natural hazards
- Importance of protected areas and etc.

Steps needed to complete the programme

01 Registration for the Environmental Information and Education Centre on the website (eiec.gov.ge)

02 selection of application forms

03 Interview

DIEGO MIKAVA

ECOLEADER

"Each of us should be aware that human beings are not the center of the universe, and in case we don't take care and preserve the environment, not only the planet but we all will be in danger. I believe that taking care of the environment is the responsibility of each of us, not only a selected number of people who are ecologists by their professions. I was able to grasp my part in all of this thanks to the Ecoleader School, and now I realize that protecting the environment is something everyone must be doing.

As a contemporary artist, I am constantly working on ideas and issues that are challenging. For example, one of the recent works is based on the challenges facing cliff eagle. I think that the School of Eco Leaders has also contributed to this.

I would not be as knowledgeable about environmental processes as I am now if it weren't Ecoleader School."



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FORESTRY SCHOOL

Teaching format: theoretical part - **online**, practical part - **face-to-face**

Target group: **IX-XII grade students in public and private schools**

Duration of the programme: **2 months, two meetings per week in an online format**

Contact person - **Ana Tsatsanashvili**

E-mail: **ana.tsatsanashvili@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 555204321**

The Forestry School is a training programme developed by the Environmental Information and Education Centre. The purpose of the school is to provide in- depth knowledge on current and interesting topics to young people interested in issues related to forests, taking into account both theoretical and practical aspects. Interested and motivated young people are given the opportunity:

- To deepen knowledge in the field of forestry with modern teaching methods.
- To learn about the challenges and responses in the sector.
- To become interested in continuing their studies in forestry in the future
- Acquire like-minded people and practice with them.
- To actively take part in the future events of the EIEC

Students from IX-XII classes are introduced to such issues as:

- The Role of Forests in achieving sustainable development goals
- Forest types/main woody species forming the forest
- Timber and non-timber resources
- Pests, principles of sustainable forest management
- Biodiversity of the forest
- Climate change and its impact on the forest
- Natural hazards
- Forest fires
- Energy efficiency
- Alternative fuel
- Ecotourism
- Forestry profession and forestry education

The course was developed within the project "Supporting the Implementation of Forest Sector Reform in Georgia -ECO.Georgia". The project is implemented by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and its subordinate agencies.

BIDZINA JINCHARADZE

GRADUATE OF THE FORESTRY SCHOOL

"Since I was a little child, I've been interested in forest-related topics, and I want to connect my future activities with the forest. When the Environmental Information and Education Centre announced a new project called "Forestry School," I was very excited because I intended to deepen my existing knowledge of environmental issues, especially forest biodiversity and timber and non-timber resources. I didn't know if climate change was having such a big impact on the forest. I thought even more about how much danger we humans pose to the environment and how crucial the profession of a forester is. After two months of completing the forestry school, I can now boldly follow my future plans—to become a forester and become more related to the forest and its biodiversity."



MARIAM TABATADZE

GRADUATE OF THE FORESTRY SCHOOL

"When I was a kid, my father worked in the forestry service of Borjomi, which is why I always had a great interest in forestry, and my father was my hero. I love the environment and nature, which are integral parts of our lives; that was the reason why I joined the project, even though I didn't think about becoming a professional forester. The project gave me the opportunity to meet very interesting people, so it convinced me that nature fills with happiness everyone who gets close to it. What you need to do is to open your eyes, see what is around you, and learn how to take care of the environment."



Required steps to complete the program

- 01** Registration on the website of the Environmental Information and Education Centre (eiec.gov.ge)
- 02** selection of application forms
- 03** Interview



Acquire knowledge and skills to create a better environment.

AGROSCHOOL

Teaching format: theoretical part - **online**, practical part - **face-to-face**

Target group: **IX-XII grade students in public and private schools**

Duration of the programme: **2 months, two meetings per week in an online format.**

Contact person - **Ana Tsatsanashvili**

E-mail: **ana.tsatsanashvili@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 555204321**

Agroschool is a training programme developed by the Environmental Information and Education Centre, with the purpose of providing students interested in agricultural topics with information about the fields of agriculture and encouraging them to engage in activities in the agricultural direction. Interested and motivated young people are given the opportunity:

- To deepen knowledge in the agricultural direction with modern teaching methods
- To receive relevant and important information in the field of agriculture about topics, existing programs, projects, news etc.
- To learn about successful examples of agro practices
- To acquire like-minded people and practice with them interesting projects
- Actively involve in events organized by the Environmental Information and Education Centre

Students of Agroschool will get to know such topics as:

- Development of agriculturists
- Opportunities for farmers
- existing programmes in the field of agriculture
- farm management
- History of wine and wine tasting
- Georgian vine varieties, history of finding and protecting wild vines in Georgia
- Fruit growing
- Market gardening
- Gardening
- Georgian traditional beekeeping
- Aquaculture and fishing
- Veterinary medicine and particularly dangerous infectious diseases of animals
- Animal husbandry and poultry farming
- Soil science, desertification, and grazing
- Food safety
- Climate-smart agriculture
- The role of education in the agricultural sector, agrotourism

Required steps to complete the program

01 **Registration on the website of the Environmental Information and Education Centre (eiec.gov.ge)**

02 **selection of application forms**

03 **Interview**

BARBARE ARABULI

GRADUATE OF THE FORESTRY SCHOOL

"I am very glad that I was given the opportunity to participate and to spend some precious months in one of the most fruitful and, most importantly, friendly Agroschools, which aim to promote and raise awareness of agricultural issues among young people.

The original goal of joining the project was to solve the problems in my village, which caused a lot of resistance due to my lack of knowledge of specific issues, but now I can confidently say that I am an Agroschool student, and from today on I will be able to contribute to the elimination of problems in my community. The project enabled me to study agricultural topics. I understood the importance of agricultural development. This is the first time I heard about organic farming, and I think most people in the region don't know how important organic food production is. "



DATO BERIA

GRADUATE OF THE AGROSCHOOL

"I was always interested in agricultural topics. My region has great potential for the development of various branches of agriculture. That is why I set myself the goal of becoming the first Agroschool student to put the acquired knowledge into practice.

Now I have the practical part to do. The most interesting lectures for me were on farm management. Now I have an idea of how to manage my farm. I didn't know if we had so many vine varieties in the country. Now I will be able to distinguish all of them from each other. Finally, I would like to tell you that along with theoretical knowledge, the Agroschool helped me become more communicative, gave me the opportunity to meet new people, make friends, attend lectures by highly qualified trainers, and further deepen my knowledge in the field of agriculture".



AGROSCHOOL

Acquire knowledge and skills to create a better environment.

GREEN CAMP- CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

Teaching format: **theoretical and practical parts face-to-face**

Target group: **15- to 17-year-olds**

Duration of the programme: **8 days**

Contact person – **Mariam Seditashvili**

E-mail address: **mariami.seditashvili@ieic.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 598620024**

The camp gives young people the chance to raise awareness regarding environmental topics and after its completion of the programme, implement projects at the local level.

The camp programme covers important environmental topics such as:

- Management of forest resources
- Biodiversity
- Ambient air quality in Georgia
- Climate change and disaster risk reduction
- Community-based disaster risk management
- Geological threats specific to Georgia
- Importance and role of the Hydrometeorology Department in Georgia

Participants work together with field specialists on environmental topics of interest to them and engage in team activities. Green Camp: “Climate Ambassadors” is implemented by the Environmental Information and Education Centre with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the governments of Sweden and Switzerland.

Required steps to complete the program

01 Registration on the website of the Environmental Information and Education Centre (ieic.gov.ge)

02 selection of application forms

03 Interview

ELENE PASEISHVILI

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

"I decided to spend the hot summer days cognitively, and by chance, I came across an interesting post, where young people named as "Climate Ambassadors" were encouraged to participate in the green camp. I also decided to test my fate. It was not like the application forms of other camps, which, as a rule, consist of several questions. It was time-consuming to fill out. I sent the application form. I really wanted to go to the next stage. I was very nervous, despite the fact that it was not my first camp, however I was waiting for their feedback with some special emotions.

The green camp - "Climate Ambassador" is an opportunity to become part of the best team and discuss, engage with, and receive comprehensive information on environmental topics of global importance. I made a lot of friends, spent special and impressive days, and most importantly, I never forget the main purpose of the camp, our "climate ambassadors." I contributed to the main commitment by informing people about the consequences of climate change.



REZI DGEBUADZE

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

"It is important to understand that in a world where a clean environment is indirectly and directly related to a person's economic condition, health, and life it is crucial to take into consideration and comprehend problems and approaches to solve them"

By raising awareness on environmental problems, the Green Camp "Climate Ambassadors" significantly improved my personal development. The programme covered a wide range of climate change-related topics and provided me with the information I needed to fully understand the issues.

Along with learning important facts, I also improved my ability to play multiple roles in a team setting, make wise choices in critical situations, communicate effectively, etc.

We also created initiatives/local projects that ensured the programme's sustainability and turned the participants into true ambassadors.



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TRAININGS

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD

Contact person: **Nino Tabatadze**

E-mail: **nino.tabatadze@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 595958825**

In order to promote the growth of environmental education and awareness in the country, the Environmental Information and Education Centre annually offers to different segments of society a variety of training courses tailored to the user's needs using contemporary teaching methods in both a remote and face-to-face format, in the following directions:

- Environmental democracy: human rights and obligations
- Reducing the risk of climate-driven disasters caused by climate change
- Ambient air quality
- Environmental legislation and administrative responsibility
- Protected territories of Georgia and others

Target groups:

- Public agencies
- Non-governmental organizations
- Community organizations
- Local governments
- Educational institutions
- Media
- Private sector



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AGRICULTURAL FIELD

In order to improve farmers' qualifications in accordance with the following directions, Environmental Information and Education Centre provides training and seminars to interested parties:

- Animal health and nutrition
- Veterinary medicine
- Agrotechnology of Almond Production
- Arrangement of a modern greenhouse
- Poultry: chicken breeding, breeds, nutrition, diseases, and prevention
- Maintenance and construction of windbreaks and others

Target groups: **farmers, and other interested parties.**

GIORGI BERUCHASHVILI

TRAINER

"I think education is the main priority today. For the sustainable development of the beekeeping industry, it is crucial to share knowledge and experience, with current beekeepers as well as with youth interested in this field."



LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Target groups: **schoolchildren, students**

Format of meetings: **in the Centre or by visiting the location (throughout Tbilisi)**

Contact person: **Ana Tsatsanashvili**

E-mail: **ana.tsatsanashvili@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 555204321**

The Environmental Information and Education Centre provides lectures and seminars for students, teachers and school groups on current environmental topics such as:

- protection of biodiversity
- Sustainable Development Goals
- waste management
- ambient air quality
- water and energy
- Radiation - its use and possible dangers
- Earth history: from protoplanet to blue planet
- Human environmental rights
- Protected territories of Georgia and others

Lectures and seminars are conducted both by specialists of the Centre and by invited speakers/experts.

CERTIFICATION OF REFRIGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONING TECHNICIANS

Contact person - **Ana Tsatsanashvili**

E-mail: **ana.tsatsanashvili@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 555204321**

Only a person certified according to the rules established by the Georgian legislation has the right to service devices working on refrigerants.

The purpose of the certification of the service person working on the refrigerant is the requirements of safety and environmental protection, as well as the safe operation of air conditioning and refrigeration equipment or heat pumps, in accordance with the Law of Georgia "On Protection of Ambient Air",

The Environmental Information and Education Centre provides certification and the issuance of a certificate to individuals and companies servicing refrigerant equipment.

Required Steps to pass the exam

01 Registration is available on the website of the Environmental Information and Education Centre (eiec.gov.ge)

02 ID card/passport

03 Submission of 3/4 of the photograph (on a CD) on the spot

04 payment of the certification exam fee (50 GEL)

05 Submission of a supporting document

Tests are available in three languages: Georgian, English and Russian.

The certificate is valid for a person for a period of five years.

The certificate is valid for a legal entity for a period of three years.



INFORMATION MEETINGS AND CAMPAIGNS

Contact Person - **Lika Pkhovelishvili**

E-mail: **lika.pkhovelishvili@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 595503081**

One of the main functions of the Environmental Information and Education Centre is to inform the public about environmental and agricultural topics. The Centre offers informational meetings to the interested public about legislative changes, decrees and legal acts. Information campaigns about important news and changes are underway .

In order to make informed and responsible decisions, it is crucial to involve representatives of various sectors of society in the environmental decision-making process.

Target groups:

- Representatives of municipalities
- Private and public sector
- Students/pupils and teachers
- Local community organizations
- Non-governmental organizations
- Media and other interested persons

THEMATIC CONTESTS

Contact person: **Lika Pkhovelishvili**

E-mail: **lika.pkhovelishvili@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 595503081**

In order to raise awareness and increase community involvement, the Centre offers contests for essays, photos, blogs, articles, radio and video stories, project proposals, and posters to various target groups. The aforementioned contests are announced every year on the following environmental topics:

- Protection of ambient air and the ozone layer
- Sustainable forest management and alternative fuels
- Reducing the risk of climate- disasters
- Biodiversity protection and others

Target audience:

- Practitioners of school and preschool institutions
- Students
- Media facilities
- Community and non-governmental organizations

THE ANNUAL CONTEST - “GREEN AWARD”

Contact person - **Nino Tabatadze**

E-mail: **nino.tabatadze@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 577610972**

In 2018, the Environmental Information and Education Centre of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia established the “Green Award” contest, which is the top award in environmental education, in order to share the successful results achieved in preschool and school environmental education and increase the motivation of teachers.

The contest takes place every year.

The “Green Award” will be given to two winners, chosen by the contest commission:

- **Green Award - Preschool environmental education**
- **Green Award - Environmental and agricultural education in school**

MARINE PORCHKHIDZE

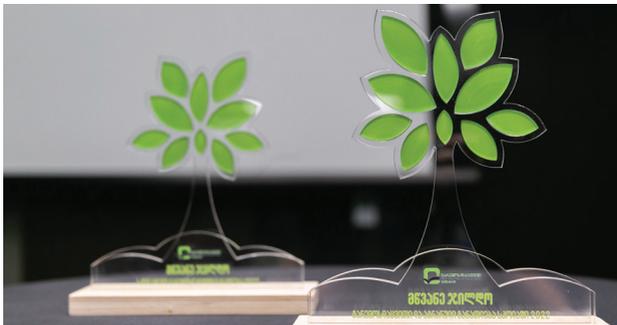
WINNER OF THE GREEN AWARD, TEACHER OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL OF ZESTAFONI MUNICIPALITY

“Receiving the green award is a matter of pride for me, both as a teacher and as a person, because it appreciates you for going the right way and gives you more motivation to continue doing the same in the future.” Along with the great prizes that come with the Green Award contest, it also puts you in contact with people in your field, with whom you can make professional and friendly connections.”



Required steps to participate in the contest

- 01** **Completing the contest application on the website of the Environmental Information and Education Centre (eiec.gov.ge)**
- 02** **selection of applications**
- 03** **Submission of presentations prepared by the candidates who passed to the second stage to the relevant commission**
- 04** **Based on the presentations, revealing the top 10 candidates**
- 05** **revealing the winners**



“GREEN” AND “AGRO SCHOLARSHIPS”

Contact person: **Sophio Berishvili**

E-mail: **sopio.berishvili@eiec.gov.ge**

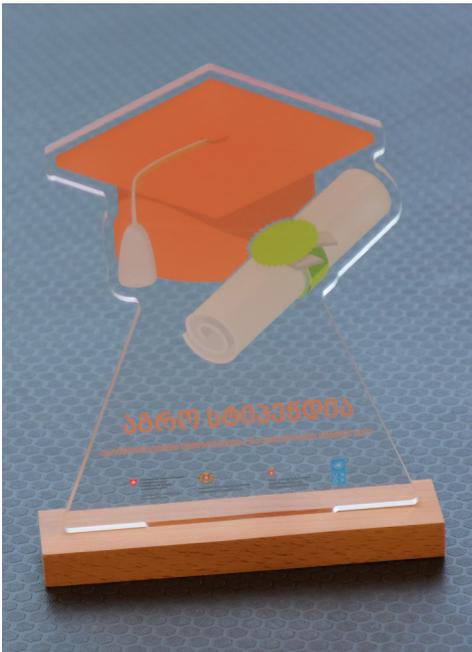
Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 598313132**

The “Green” and “Agro Scholarships” program aims to popularize deficient environmental and agricultural professions and to encourage in this direction students of vocational schools, bachelor’s and master’s programs with high academic performance. The program provides an opportunity for students to make internship in various State Agencies under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Within the program, 64 scholarships are awarded annually, ranging from 500 to 1500 Gel. In particular, the scholarship envisages 500 Gel for students of vocational schools, 1000 Gel – for bachelor’s program students, and 1500 Gel – for master’s program students.”

Students of master’s programmes have opportunity to receive the “Green Scholarship” in case of studying the following deficient professions:

- Physical Geography and Sustainable Development of the Environment
- Integrated Water Resources Management (Hydrology)
- Geology
- Environmental Protection and Engineering Ecology
- Ecology
- Constructive (Applied) Geography and Environmental Protection
- Environmental Management and Policy



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8 universities are involved in the „Green Scholarships“ Program.

Students of vocational and higher education (Bachelor's and Master's) programs have opportunity to receive the „Agro scholarship“, in case of studying the following deficient professions:

- Agronomy
- Animal Husbandry
- Food Technology
- Agroengineering
- Veterinary Medicine
- Viticulture/Winemaking
- Hydromelioration

14 vocational schools (Colleges) and 6 universities participate in the „Agro scholarships“ program .

Criteria for awarding scholarships are following:

- 01 High Academic Performance**
- 02 Recommendation from a teacher, employer/practical training instructor**
- 03 Priority will be given to those students who have presented a project (at professional level)/scientific paper at the university conference and have received a high evaluation (for Bachelor's and Master's degrees) at university/student conferences**
- 04 Letter of recommendation from the director of the program**

E-COURSES

To make environmental and agricultural education easily accessible and for programmes sustainability, the EIEC has developed e-courses for various target audiences.

AN ASYNCHRONOUS STUDY COURSE, “ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AT SCHOOL”

Target group: **elementary school teachers**

Teaching format: **fully electronic**

The contact person: **Ana Tsatsanashvili**

E-mail: ana.tsatsanashvili@eiec.gov.ge

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 555204321**

The aim of the course is to integrate environmental and agricultural topics into the teaching process. The training module covers eight topics, all of which are completely consistent with the manual developed by the EIEC within the frames of the program - “Environmental and Agricultural Education at School.” Primary school teachers are highly encouraged to register for the course for free.

The asynchronous module combines videos, presentations, exercises, and summative tests on such relevant and important topics as the concept of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, water resources protection and sustainable management, air pollution protection, waste management, climate change and natural hazard reduction, land management, the fight against desertification, food safety, and food quality. The training course was developed by the Environmental Information and Education Centre within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project.

Required steps to complete the course

- 01** **Registration on the website - edx.emis.ge**
- 02** **Listening to video lessons according to topics and performing appropriate exercises**
- 03** **Performance of the summary test**
- 04** **Obtaining a certificate**

GREEN ECONOMY E-COURSE

Contact Person: **Natia Bliadze**

E-mail: natela.bliadze@eiec.gov.ge

Tel: (032) 2 11 20 23, 598218285

On the educational electronic platform uncclearn.org, the Environmental Information and Education Centre has created a green economy certificate course as part of the EU4 Environment project. The international platform offers five green economy modules in the Georgian language, available for anyone including representatives of the Ministries, local self-governments, s and private sector, environmental managers, professors, researchers and students of higher education institutions. The e-course includes interactive lessons, quizzes, and questionnaires. Upon successful completion of all stages of the course, a person will receive a certificate. The green economy certificate course on the world's leading educational platform is free.

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3YYZ6pP>

Target groups:

- Representatives of ministries and local governments
- Private sector
- Environmental managers
- Teachers of higher schools
- Researchers
- Students

Steps required to complete the course

- 01** **Registration on the website - uncclearn.org**
- 02** **Presentations through modules, listening to video lessons, and performing appropriate exercises.**
- 03** **Completion of summative tests at the end of each module and successful completion of the 70% tests**
- 04** **Obtaining a certificate**

ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY ELECTRONIC TRAINING COURSE

Contact person - **Nino Tabatadze**

E-mail: **nino.tabatadze@eiec.gov.ge**

Tel: **(032) 2 11 20 23, 598 503 151**

The course aims to promote environmental democracy, accountability, and civil society involvement in environmental and climate change-related decision-making processes, also to share the best practices of environmental democracy at the international and local levels. The course includes relevant theoretical material, practical examples (from European and Georgian reality), exercises, assignments, and photo/video material. This e-learning course was created with the financial support of the UK government.

Target groups:

- Self-government representatives of different municipalities in Georgia
- Civil society organizations
- Students/young people
- All interested persons

The environmental democracy e-learning course is the first Georgian-language e-learning course on environmental democracy, consisting of two modules:

- The essence of environmental democracy, environmental rights, and Responsibilities
- Powers of local governments and environmental democracy

For those who want to take the course, registration is available on the platform:

<https://eiec.gov.ge/Ge/TrainingCourses/38> and/ or <https://learning.wfd.org/enrol/index.php?id=34>



**LEPL ENVIRONMENTAL
INFORMATION AND
EDUCATION CENTRE**



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA



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