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The Institute of Social Studies and Analysis

Study of Social and Economic Conditions and Attitudes of Kvemo Kartli Population



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In 2011, with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, ISSA implemented the project Study of the Overall Social Profile of the Population of Kvemo Kartli Region. The aim of the project was to study the socio-economic conditions of the population of Kvemo Kartli. The research revealed the knowledge of and attitudes and perceptions to various regional events, implemented projects, institutions and structures. This report has been prepared by Iago Kachkachishvili, Nino Korinteli, Teona Mataradze and Mamuka Nadareishvili.

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Main findings

In August-September, 2011, the Institute of Social Studies and Analysis conducted a survey in Kvemo Kartli region to study the local social and economic situation and the attitudes of the region's population. The survey was supported by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development. The survey focused on the region's social and economic profile and aimed at identifying the challenges facing the Kvemo Kartli region and revealing its potential.

The survey covered the following issues:

Households' economic and demographic profile;

Employment structure;

Level of infrastructure development and the impact of infrastructure rehabilitation programs;

Households' housing conditions;

Education level and the barriers on different levels of the education system;

Healthcare, accessibility of health care services and the impact of medical insurance on health care;

Awareness of social assistances/benefits (in particular, the Social Assistance Program for Families below the Poverty Line) and involvement in the program;

Prospects of the region's economic development; studying the impact of current projects on the population's and the region's economic situation;

Awareness of the village support state program; involvement in the program and determining the effectiveness of outcomes;

Researching the migration trends in Kvemo Kartli region;

Conditions of ethnic minorities;

Gender balance in the family, community and society; gender stereotypes;

Attitude to different community based structures ; studying relationship between the government structures and community;

Main sources of information and evaluation of the Mass Media.

Methodology

Target group: Kvemo Kartli population (18+)

Sample size: About 3000 respondents

Judging by the sample size, survey results are representative for the entire region, individual districts and the ethnic and gender groups. Table 1 shows the distribution of sampled population by districts:

Table 1. Sample distribution by administrative units in Kvemo Kartli region

Administrative units	Number	%
Rustavi	460	15.4%
Marneuli	461	15.4%
Bolnisi	437	14.6%
Dmanisi	397	13.3%
Tetritskaro	400	13.4%
Tsalka	397	13.3%
Gardabani	438	14.6%

Instrument: Questionnaire

Method of interviewing: Face to face interview

Sample frame: Results of the 2002 census

Sample design: Multi - stage cluster sampling

The sample was evenly distributed across the gender dimension and the type of settlement. Each district/town was divided into the strata corresponding to settlement size. Three strata were singled out in each district:

1. Regional urban center;
2. Small towns and district centers;
3. Villages.

Primary sampling unit¹: Urban and rural settlement strata. 15 interviews were conducted in each sampling unit. Primary sampling unit was selected using the probability proportional to size method.

Secondary sampling unit: Household.

In each primary sample secondary sampling was carried out using the random sampling method. The step size was different in different types of settlements.

Final sampling unit: Individuals aged 18 and above.

Final sampling unit was selected from family members using the Kish table.

A questionnaire was developed at the preparatory stage of the survey. 20 face-to-face interviews were conducted during the pilot survey. The shortcomings identified during the pilot survey were fixed in the questionnaires.

Fieldwork: Fieldwork was carried out by 3 supervisors and 68 interviewers.

Before fieldwork supervisors and interviewers were delivered training, during which they were given detailed instructions regarding the survey. Fieldwork lasted four weeks (August-September, 2011).

Fieldwork control: Fieldwork control started upon the completion of the relevant activities and covered a 10% of sampled population (300 interviews in total). No major errors were recorded in the relevant period. Because of minor errors 10 questionnaires were removed.

Data entry and processing: After the completion of fieldwork control the data were coded and entered in the SPSS database. After that, SPSS files were cleaned and the data were processed using data frequency distribution, calculation of mean values, cross-tabulation, correlation and regression analysis.

Social and demographic indicators of Kvemo Kartli population

To get a clear picture of survey results it is necessary to obtain comprehensive information about the researched group's social and demographic characteristics. According to the survey extended families, with several generations living in the same household, prevail in Kvemo Kartli region. The average size of households exceeds the average family size for Georgia². Although labor migration is very typical of Kvemo Kartli region, there is still a sufficient number of children and young people, which means that

¹ As a result of field work quality control 10 questionnaires forms dropped out. Therefore, the database contains 2990 interviews.

² The average size of households exceeds the average family size for Georgia (3.6) and equals 3.9.

aging, as a trend, is not characteristic of the region. Large size families especially prevail in Marneuli and Gardabani districts. Two thirds of the region's population is married and heads of the household are mainly represented by men³. Extended families, early marriages and the attribution to men of the status of head of the household point to the existence of the traditional family pattern in the region.

Kvemo Kartli is an ethnically diverse region, mainly populated with the Georgians (56.3%), Azeri (36.8%) and Armenians (5.6%). There are also Greeks, Russians and Poles, but they are represented in small numbers. Ethnic affiliation is linked with two demographic characteristics: religious affiliation and mother language. Consequently, these two characteristics are distributed in the same way as ethnicity. In ethnically diverse districts, the knowledge of the state language (language mastery level) is one of the most important problems. According to survey results, two thirds of non-Georgian population (71.5%) do not speak Georgian. This mainly applies to the Azeri population, 78.3% of which cannot speak Georgian. The corresponding number in the Armenian population is relatively low and slightly exceeds one third (36.3%). The mastery level of the state language also differs by districts. Its level is especially low in Marneuli, Gardabani and Dmanisi. The knowledge of the state language is one of the important factors in terms of the population's involvement in the social and economic processes. Lack of ability to speak the official language causes estrangement in non-Georgian citizens and evokes aggression. Survey results also show that ethnically non-Georgian population is less informed about different projects and structures compared to ethnic Georgians. It is noteworthy that the level of language mastery in different ethnic minorities depends on settlement patterns. The groups that are represented in small numbers (Russians, Greeks, Poles, etc) demonstrate higher level of language mastery than Azeri and Armenian respondents in large settlements who mainly use their native language for community relations and do not experience an acute need for this kind of knowledge.

Employment is an important dimension to describe the studied group. This dimension was measured using the ILO standard⁴. According to this standard, 43.7% of population is employed in Kvemo Kartli region. However, the employment status contains certain ambiguities. According to the ILO standard, any person involved in any kind of income generating activity (including agricultural activity) is considered to be employed irrespective of the form of income (or whether it is monetary or not). Not surprisingly, this kind of definition is not considered acceptable by respondents, which has also been confirmed by fieldwork. Certain ambiguity is also related to the definition of unemployment. According to the ILO standard the person who looked for a job during the last week irrespective of the outcome of the job searching activity is considered unemployed. Therefore, the unemployed who did not look for a job during the last week are not identified as 'unemployed'. If we accept this criterion, only 15% of Kvemo Kartli population can be considered unemployed. However, the survey showed that another 20% of unemployed respondents do not fall under the categories of 'housewife' or "pensioner" and are not job seekers, mainly due to hopelessness (respondents say that job hunting does not make any sense, since they are not likely to get it, anyway). Motivational deficiency demonstrated in relation to job seeking mostly prevails in rural areas and among ethnic minorities.

Economic situation of Kvemo Kartli population

Economic situation is one of the important dimensions of researched population. The households' economic situation closely correlates not only with the perception of the economic situation in Kvemo Kartli region, but also with its perception at the national level. Assessment of families' economic

³ The only exception is households without an adult male member.

⁴ According to the ILO standard the person employed last week for at least one hour is considered to be employed.

situation is a complex exercise since it involves the subjective evaluation of the economic situation as well as its objective indicators.

In general, ethnic minorities are in more difficult economic situation than ethnically Georgian population. This could be explained by their limited access to public goods. This could be interpreted as a result of low level of minorities' social integration rather than a manifestation of discrimination.

In Kvemo Kartli, the main source of income is salary or reimbursement for work, as well as pension and agricultural products. Formal and informal assistance (provided by relatives, neighbors and migrants) represents the main source of income only for an insignificant minority of households. As evidenced by research results, family income is basically spent on food, utility services and medicine, which points to low level of economic development. The families do not have enough income to think about the purchase of goods or investing in business or agricultural activity.

The poverty level of Kvemo Kartli households was measured using an alternative method – the share of food expenses in overall expenses. In general, households' economic level, negatively correlates with the share of food expenses in overall expenditure. A family is considered poor when this share exceeds 70%. Judging by this criterion, one third of the region's families (33.1%) can be qualified as poor.

The research used an alternative measure of economic situation – deprivation poverty. It implies that a family can be considered poor if it is not able to carry out certain activities and is deprived of certain items normally needed for active social life. Respondents were given 10 criteria, in total. If a family did not meet seven criteria, it was considered poor. According to this criterion, 34.5% of Kvemo Kartli households was regarded as poor in terms of deprivation poverty.

Assessment of economic situation was also conducted through respondents' reports. In the course of survey, over more than a half of respondents assessed their economic situation as 'bad' ('income/harvested products are only enough for nutrition' - 52%), 9% as hard ('we are always helped by someone to get nutrition') and 10%, as extremely hard ('we starve all the time').

Comparison of the obtained results shows that judging by objective criteria the households' economic situation was more favorable than that perceived by households. However, it has to be mentioned that if only assessed by objective criteria, one third of Kvemo Kartli households is still identified as poor. The poverty level is lower in urban areas compared with rural settlements. The difference could be explained by the fact that the majority of rural population depends on agricultural activities which generate only a small income, whereas those employed in towns and cities have stable reimbursement, which guarantees a better economic situation for the families⁵. Poverty level measured using all the three criteria is high in Marneuli, Bolnisi and Gardabani districts. Situation is better in Tsalka and Rustavi. In Dmanisi and Tetrtskaro the poverty showing changes in accordance with the measurement method. This indicator is low when measured by expenditure, but it proves to be high when measured by deprivation poverty. As for the economic situation in other ethnic groups, the poverty level is lower between Georgian than ethnic Azeri and Armenian population.

Kvemo Kartli infrastructure and housing conditions

Infrastructure is a unity of interrelated elements, which creates a single basis for a proper functioning of the entire society. The economic difficulties in the Post-Soviet Georgia had a negative effect on the

⁵ According to the 2010 year data provided by the National Statistics Office of Georgia, average monthly nominal earnings for agricultural activity, hunting and forestry constituted 279.2 GEL in Georgia, which is much less than average monthly nominal earnings for any other activities (<http://www.geostat.ge>).

country's infrastructure. The impaired functioning of infrastructure had an especially negative effect on rural settlements. The rehabilitation of infrastructure became the Government's priority in the recent period and a number of important projects were implemented in this sector. Kvemo Kartli region was not exceptional in this respect. Survey results show that the power supply problem has been fully resolved in the region. Waste disposal, street illumination and improvement of roads are the issues that have been partially solved but not in all the districts.

On the other hand, the proper operation of irrigation and sewerage systems still presents a problem for Kvemo Kartli residents. Also, the population primarily points to the construction/rehabilitation of the gas supply systems, followed by the construction/rehabilitation of the water supply system and the construction and equipment of school buildings. As for pre-school and medical institutions, they fall under the group of the least rehabilitated infrastructure. Rehabilitation of different infrastructures has no direct effect on the well-being of a considerable part of Kvemo Kartli population⁶. However, there are still several cases that point to the opposite (e.g. a family member employed for a long or short period or a family starts or expands business).

The survey revealed infrastructure related problems and the social problems that are especially difficult for different Kvemo Kartli districts.

Problems related to infrastructure

Infrastructure was mainly rehabilitated in the urban center of Kvemo Kartli – Rustavi. However, the power supply system operates properly in almost every district. The Marneuli and Tsalka settlements are especially concerned about the condition of preschool institutions. Educational institutions (libraries, museums, etc) or places for entertainment are unavailable in almost every district (except for Rustavi). The sewerage system does not work properly in almost any of the districts. The districts are somewhat concerned about street lighting, but it is especially painful for Tsalka population. Bad conditions of roads is mostly mentioned by Gardabani, Marneuli and Bolnisi residents and housing problems by Gardabani and Marneuli residents.⁷ Waste disposal is a problem for every district, especially for Tsalka. Gas supply is problematic in three Kvemo Kartli districts – Tsalka, Marneuli and Dmanisi. Irrigation water is a matter of concern for every district except for Gardabani, whereas lack of drinking water is the most acute problem for Marneuli and Tetrtskaro population. Almost all the districts have more or less sufficient amount of agricultural land. Gardabani and Marneuli are exceptional in this respect.

Social problems

In all the territorial units (including Rustavi) employment presents the most acute problem. In all the districts security, transportation and the payment of pensions and benefits does not present a problem. Health care services are more or less accessible in every district, but Marneuli and Bolnisi residents are still dissatisfied to a certain extent. Organizing meetings or demonstrations is very difficult in all the districts except Rustavi.

Housing conditions is one of the indicators of the population's social and economic situation. They depend on the family's economic resources and, also, on the level of infrastructure development. Most Kvemo Kartli residents are apartment owners, therefore, most of them do not have to pay a rent. In some cases families were given the flats for temporary use free of charge by the flat owner who was not their relative (such cases have been mostly recorded in Tsalka district).

⁶ We could speak about direct economic effect when family expands its business, a family member finds a job or a family starts using this or that institution.

⁷ Marneuli residents mostly complain about the lack of living space, whereas Gardabani population often notes that the dwelling is unsafe for living.

Almost three fourths of the region population lives in three or four room apartments. Two thirds live in the apartments that are over 50 square meters. As a rule, the space size and the number of rooms increase with the increase in family size. However, some families are too large and therefore do not have enough space. This is mainly true for Marneuli. Although there are not many large families in Tsalka district, the lack of living space presents the most severe problem just in this district. Single and two room apartments prevail in Rustavi. Despite this, there is no deficit in living space due to the prevalence of nuclear families.

There are some problems related to the living apartments in Kvemo Kartli region. The most acute problems are related to the apartments that need repairs. This was confirmed by two thirds of respondents. This is followed by the problem related to water heating and taking a bath/shower, which is unavailable for two fifths of Kvemo Kartli households. This problem is most acute in rural areas, and out of the region's districts, is most painful for Tsalka district. Heating the living space is also problematic, which cannot be afforded by two fifths of the households. The heating problem is most difficult in rural areas, especially in Bolnisi district.

Providing the region's population with clean drinking water is another important problem, which affects the people's health and the level of wellbeing. The water supply problem is also important in the gender context, since, according to survey results, women and children are the main water carriers. In addition, irregular water supply affects women's day schedule. The problem is most acute in rural settlements. Water supply presents a problem for almost every district (except for Rustavi). Marneuli residents are in the most difficult situation in this respect.

One fifth of the households in Kvemo Kartli region points to fact that the apartments are unsafe for living. The apartments like these are mostly encountered in rural areas, and most often in Gardabani and Tetrtskaro districts. A small number of residents in rural areas names some difficulties with documents in the context of housing problems. Problems with the relevant documentation arise due to a big distance from administrative bodies, travel expenses and low level of awareness.

Inner-migration tendency is very weak in Kvemo Kartli districts. Ethnic minorities are the groups most attached to their place of living. This could be explained by high density of population and their desire to maintain close inter-group links. Therefore, the changes mainly take place in urban areas and Georgian settlements. The low level of internal migration in Kvemo Kartli region is likely to persist also in the future. The survey shows that very few people think of changing their place of dwelling. Although the researched group has serious housing problems as well as the problems related to the infrastructure, half of the group does not plan to change the place of residence, since it is more or less satisfied with the existing conditions. The problem of adjustment with the actual living conditions is especially acute in Marneuli, Bolnisi and Dmanisi districts. One third of households is not satisfied with the existing conditions, but, since they do not hope for the improvement of economic conditions, they are not planning to move home within the next six months.

Education

Since Georgia gained independence in 1991, state funding for the education sector has dramatically decreased. Primary and secondary education are not mainly charged, but families still find it difficult to incur education expenses (money spent on the educational material, school clothes, and, in certain cases, tuition fee). The education system in Georgia underwent important changes in the recent years. The administration and funding patterns have changed, and international donors have got involved in the reorganization of the education system. The primary objective of the reorganization process is to achieve

the quality of education ensuring the international integration of the individuals with local education (education received in Georgia).

The survey showed the involvement of young people in educational institutions. It also highlighted education related problems and barriers. As shown by the survey, in Kvemo Kartli region the level of involvement of children under 7 in pre-school educational institutions is quite low and constitutes one-fifth of the relevant population. This is caused by a poorly developed kindergarten system and the families' financial problems. Not surprisingly, the system of pre-school educational institutions is developed in the urban center of Kvemo Kartli- Rustavi, where the children's involvement level is high. This is followed by Dmanisi, Gardabani and Bolnisi districts. The level of involvement is especially low in Tsalka and Marneuli districts. Two thirds of the families with children in Tsalka district and one half of the families with children in Marneuli district point to the fact that no kindergarten operates in their settlement. Fees and preschool institutions present the biggest barrier to Rustavi and Tetrtskaro population. The economic factor is responsible for mainly using state owned kindergartens by Kvemo Kartli population. This is because the families cannot afford private kindergartens. The respondents using pre-school education institutions are largely satisfied with the provided service. Another important thing is that the kindergartens are usually Georgian and the children of ethnic minorities have the opportunity to study the Georgian language. If the pre-school education system begins to function normally in Kvemo Kartli region, the level of involvement will become high, which, in its turn, will help ethnic minorities' social integration.

The education level of Kvemo Kartli population as recorded within the framework of the given survey was compared to the education level identified by UNICEF in the latest nationwide survey. The share of people with secondary education throughout Georgia is lower than that in Kvemo Kartli region, whereas the share of people with higher education throughout Georgia exceeds the corresponding showing for Kvemo Kartli region (UNICEF, 2011. Welfare Monitoring Survey) (see the chapter on education).

School education is more accessible compared to pre-school education. In Kvemo Kartli, 95.8% of individuals from 7 to 18 are involved in the school educational system. Girls and boys are almost equally involved in educational institutions. Ethnic minorities show a relatively lower level of involvement (mainly Azeri school children). Most families do not explain why their child dropped out of school and among the named reasons the child's decision, illness or a lack of relevant documents prevail. Qualitative research (conducted in focus groups) revealed the following tendency: Dropouts are frequent among the Azeri families, the main reason being early marriages and a lack of need in getting education after marriage. Although early marriages were named as the reason for dropouts from secondary school only in the case of 7.7% of girls among dropouts, this showing seems to be actually high. This might explain why most respondents do not explain the reason for dropouts or name the adolescent's personal decision as the main reason. Long distance from school was named as a reason for dropouts by 7.7%. This reason was most frequently named in Tetrtskaro, Dmanisi and Gardabani districts. Over one fifth of families in Kvemo Kartli region does not face any barriers during education. One half of respondents names lack of financial resources, preventing parents from buying manuals or other learning material.

The number of people with higher education in Kvemo Kartli region falls behind the corresponding percentage at the national level.⁸ The absolute majority of respondents receives/received higher

⁸ The share of people with higher education is 26.1% nationwide, whereas it constitutes 18.8% in Kvemo Kartli region. (UNICEF, 2011. Welfare Monitoring Survey).

education in Georgia, Tbilisi. However, there are very few cases with ethnic minorities of getting education in the country of ethnic origin or Russia. One of the reasons for inaccessibility of higher education is purely material. Long distance from the educational institutions correlates with financial problems (travelling fare, tuition fee).

In addition to financial reasons lowering the relevant motivation, it often happens that people reject higher education due to language barriers and cultural peculiarities (non-Georgians), which decreases the integration of non-Georgian population into the educational space.

Survey results show that representatives of ethnic minorities admit the necessity of learning Georgian language. The most important thing is that the removal of linguistic barrier correlates with employment, and, correspondingly, with the improvement of the families' economic situation. These results also show that ethnic minorities do not face any serious problems in their attempt to learn Georgian which results in high level of satisfaction. Also, the survey did not reveal any facts pointing to the discrimination of minorities in terms of their access to education. However, there are certain gender related stereotypes in Azeri population, which is reflected in giving priority to young men with regard to different educational programs (intense English language courses, inclusion of disabled children into the schools for general education, program for improving minority languages teaching to national minorities, the program supporting especially talented children and youth, vocational education).

Awareness problems also came to the surface: Slightly more than half of respondents were not at all aware of any of the educational programs. In addition, a part of respondents did not see any necessity in the introduction of these programs and did not show any willingness to take part. However, it is understandable that low awareness level decreases the 'passive' population's motivation to participate in different programs.

The research showed that cultural and educational institutions (libraries, museums, theatres, cinemas) are not very much utilized, which could be explained by bad economic situation (lack of finances). However, the deficit of cultural and educational institutions is also observed in the region.

Health care

Since gaining independence, Georgia has been facing severe economic and social problems. The population's health has deteriorated. There is an important link between poverty and the health status. On the one hand, people with acute and chronic diseases are deprived of employment opportunities which affects their families' economic situation. On the other hand, the families living in hardship cannot afford quality health care or medicine, due to which they are not able to substantially improve their health condition.

Kvemo Kartli population basically approaches health care specialists in health care institutions, like out-patient hospital, in-patient hospitals, etc. Family doctors are rarely used (21%), and, as a rule, their service is used as a part of medical insurance services. Insured families receive medical services more often. The medical police is most effectively used by those who are covered by private or corporate medical insurance. The reason is that the individual who pays for medical insurance, is better informed about the service and effectively uses it. Kvemo Kartli population widely uses self-treatment, which is basically caused by inaccessibility of medical service. Such inaccessibility is caused by two factors: The first one is the cost of medical service, which is an unsurpassable barrier to undergoing diagnostic assessment and treatment in hospital. Distance from medical institutions is the other factor, which is not at all a barrier for city residents, but it poses serious problems to Kvemo Kartli rural population.

Families who have used different medical services mainly show a high level of satisfaction. They are more satisfied with inpatient treatment than treatment in outpatient hospitals, which is caused by the

fact that the effect of inpatient treatment is immediate and easy to observe. People receiving medical treatment especially appreciate the professionalism of the medical staff and their human approach to patients.

Receiving medical services is a heavy burden for families in hardship. The survey shows that expenses on medical services and medicine caused impoverishment of one-sixth of families in Kvemo Kartli region, and turned out to be quite a heavy burden for almost half of the interviewed families. Survey results show that medical insurance elevates the burden of payment for medical services, but this does not apply to medicine since insurance companies do not, normally, cover medicine costs.

Among the barriers to medical services the most important one is related to the cost of service. Distance from medical institutions is more problematic for rural settlements. This problem is most prominent in Tsalka district, even though Bolnisi, Marneuli and Tetrtskaro residents also point to the big distance from health care institutions. Despite the existence of the distance related problem, it will be definitely solved in case the needed finances become available.

Health insurance is available for 27.3% of Kvemo Kartli population. One-third of insured population is insured within the assistance program for vulnerable population. This type of insurance mainly covers rural population, and, especially, Azeri and Armenian population. In Kvemo Kartli region, the reason for not being covered by insurance could be economic difficulties, low awareness of state and municipal insurance programs and unsuccessful attempts to join these programs.

Targeted social assistance

After the Rose Revolution, 2003, the State's social policy changed and shifted from category based assistance to the targeted social assistance system. Since 2006, the social assistance program has been implemented for vulnerable families. The program provides to identified vulnerable families monetary assistance and a medical assistance police. In some cases, on the municipality's initiative, they are also entitled to privileged payments for utility services. A family becomes eligible for the assistance under the program if it identifies itself as poor. Upon self-identification, the family has to complete the corresponding application form at the social service agency. For this reason it is very important that the family gets full information about the program. One fifth of households in Kvemo Kartli region has never heard about the program for vulnerable families. This indicator, which is quite high, implies that uninformed families have no opportunity to receive social assistance under the program. Low level of awareness is especially typical of ethnic minorities. The number of applicants for the program slightly exceeds one-third of the region's population. The reasons for non-application differ by ethnic characteristic: Georgians do not participate in the program because they do not see any need, whereas ethnic minorities fear of wrong evaluation of the family's poverty level.

Survey results show that 11.3% has received a full package of assistance. According to the statistical data of the social service agency⁹ the percentage of beneficiaries of the program for vulnerable families considerably falls behind the showing for other regions. This implies that there are fewer vulnerable families in Kvemo Kartli than in other regions of Georgia (except for Tbilisi and Samtskhe – Javakheti). Just like in other parts of Georgia, most participants of the program (registered families) are dissatisfied with the assessment results. This is mainly true for ethnic minorities who believe that the assessment was quite biased.

⁹ Social service agency www.ssa.gov.ge (Information received on 17.10.2011)

Trends in economic development

Kvemo Kartli is rich in natural resources. In addition, it has a considerable touristic potential as well as the transit potential in relation to the neighboring countries. In the Soviet period, the region had developed heavy and light industry, agriculture and processing/manufacturing industry. Post-socialist changes considerably deteriorated different economic sectors. Important changes have been taking place in the recent period. The given survey revealed the population's attitude towards different fields of economy and economic projects. Respondents' answers are mainly limited to the situation in one's own district and its prospects, and show low level of general awareness. Within the framework of this survey, respondents had to identify priority fields for the region's economy and then the qualification of the population needed for the development of the identified fields. Respondents, basically, see potential in those fields of economy, which they are personally involved in. For this reason they named different fields of the agricultural sector (cereal and vegetable growing, animal husbandry) as a priority for the region's development. Rustavi is exceptional in this respect. The awareness level of Rustavi population is high and it can view economic development in a broader context, i.e. Rustavi population basis its vision of the development of economic sectors on the actual resources owned by Kvemo Kartli region (e.g. metallurgy, mining, chemical industry, transit and tourism).

In general, Kvemo Kartli residents are skeptical about innovative economic sectors, like tourism or transit with the neighboring countries. They assess the qualification people in the region in the same way as economic sectors. Local people believe that the region's population has the skills best suited for agricultural development. This means that along with the development of alternative and new economic sectors, they need to develop new skills and acquire the necessary knowledge.

Most respondents deny that the state and private businesses invest in the development of different economic sectors or do not possess the relevant information.

The oil and gas pipeline projects have not had a direct impact on most of the population. However, respondents note the positive effect of these projects on the entire region. The region's population believes that the projects in question have increased the employment level and the compensation paid for land plots improved the economic situation of the local population.

The population has scarce information on micro credits. 9.1% has used micro loans. The recipient families mainly use the services of local organizations providing loans to the population. Improving living conditions is named as the main purpose of loan utilization, which questions the reliability of the responses. (Note: Respondents do not seem to differentiate between micro credits and other loans, since the former can be only used to start or develop business). Most loan recipients emphasize that the loan helped them in the accomplishment of their objectives.

Although transit with the neighboring countries has not been named as a promising economic sector, Kvemo Kartli population positively evaluates trading relations with the neighboring states. They speak about the openness of Turkish, Armenian and Azeri markets to exports and imports. However, respondents also point to the barriers that impede trading relations with these countries: high customs duties and bureaucratic problems. Respondents believe the trading relations with Russia to be most promising despite being well aware of the fact that at this stage the Russian market is not accessible for export or import.

To increase economic activity and income level, the Georgian Government and international organizations are implementing different projects. In the course of the survey, an emphasis was made on three programs ('Cheap credit'; 'Program for the utilization of hybrid corn and other seeds'; 'Mechanization program') implemented in Kvemo Kartli region. The survey shows that a large part of

population is not informed about the programs¹⁰ and the informed part of the population is reluctant to take part in the projects, which is explained by insufficient information, viewing the projects as unnecessary and the lack of needed finances.

The Village Support Program

The village support state program has been implemented in Georgia nationwide since 2009. Under the program rural population has to determine the problems facing the settlement and the Government finances the measures aimed at the solution of these problems. The survey shows that over half of the population has not heard about the program, and the respondents who are aware of it wrongly identify its objectives. A high share of respondents does not know whether the program is being implemented in their settlement, whether the people have been interviewed about the program or if a village meeting has been held.

On the other hand, the Kvemo Kartli population involved in the program shows considerable satisfaction with the program, the effective management of finances and the solution of problems. Out of the Kvemo Kartli districts, Tsalka was especially successful in running the program in terms of public awareness, civic activity and the effectiveness of its outcomes. When judging the program against these three criteria, Gardabani district turns out to be least successful. The survey shows that Armenian and Azeri respondents are less informed about the village support program and demonstrate lower level of civic activity. It could be concluded that the main shortcoming of program implementation in Kvemo Kartli region is low level of awareness, since the informed part of the population demonstrates a relatively high level of civic activity and satisfaction with program outcomes.

Migration

Labor migration became very important in the Post-Soviet period and this also considerably affected Kvemo Kartli region. According to statistical information the number of population in the region considerably decreased between 1989 and 2002¹¹, which, given a high birth rate, can be only explained by high level of migration. Migration from Kvemo Kartli region was caused by several reasons. In addition to economic reasons, it was also stimulated by the avoidance of ethnic discrimination, as a result of which many families abandoned this ethnically diverse region. As it was impossible to interview migrant families, the survey could only study the trends related to the migration of one or two family members.

At the time of survey, 5.5% of households had one or several members who had migrated to another country. Now, 3% of Kvemo Kartli population has this kind of experience or 3% of population has left the country for three months or a longer period. The main reason for migration is the family's economic problems, which are dealt with by looking for employment in another country. Survey results confirm that migration is one of the effective means to cope with the families' economic difficulties. Poverty as measured against different criteria is not recorded in migrants' households. However, migration has also negative aspects and it threatens the region's demography since the people who migrate to another country are normally young and fit to work. Migrants' gender correlates with the migration direction.

¹⁰ 32.1% of Kvemo Kartli respondents has not heard about the Cheap Credit program, 28.1% of Hybrid corn program and 32.7% of Mechanization program.

¹¹ According to the census data of the National Statistics Office of Georgia, the number of population in Kvemo Kartli region was 608491 in 1989. According to the 2002 census, it makes up 497530 (www.geostat.ge).

Female migrants choose Greece, Italy and Turkey, while male migrants choose the Post-Soviet space. In some cases people migrate to the country of ethnic origin.

Ethnic minorities

In Kvemo Kartli, an ethnically diverse region, the protection of non-Georgia population's rights is an important issue. The situation of the ethnic minorities was analyzed along three dimensions: protection of ethnic minorities' rights in general, the state language mastery level and relationship with other ethnic groups. According to the survey, the situation with ethnic minorities' rights is, mainly, positively evaluated. Restriction of ethnic minorities' right was more frequently mentioned by ethnic minorities' representatives. Here are two points to take into consideration: Firstly, ethnic minorities mainly identify themselves as a suppressed group, no matter what the reality is. Secondly, ethnic minorities' rights were restricted within the nation-state in the Post-Soviet period, which was first of all manifested in the dominance of the state language. In addition, ethnic minorities often abstain from evaluating the situation with their rights which could be caused by inability to assess the actual situation or a desire to conceal discrimination.

Inability to speak the state language is an important barrier in any society. Low level of language mastery results in ethnic groups' exclusion from social processes, education system and labor market. Research results show that the ethnic minorities in Kvemo Kartli region show partial awareness of these barriers. Due to this, some of their representatives demonstrate the motivation to study the language. 6–8% of ethnic minorities demonstrates a clear reluctance to study the state language, but this is quite a low tendency.

The survey also points to positive relations between ethnically Georgian and non-Georgian population. Small share of respondents which points to the existence of conflict situations (mainly between Georgian and Azeri residents), names trivial problems as the main reason of conflict, which is also the case in ethnically homogenous groups. Densely settled ethnic minorities point to close contacts with the representatives of the same ethnic group (friends, relatives). Relationship with other ethnic groups' members is more distant (neighbors, acquaintances).

Gender equality

Providing guarantees for the equality of men's and women's rights is one of the indicators of any democracy. In traditional societies (and Georgia is one of them) achieving gender equality is especially difficult, because the population's attitudes and values imply the male's dominant role. In the societies like these, gender dichotomies (sphere of female's activity/sphere of male's activity, woman's job/man's job; woman's rights/man's rights) seem to be impossible to overcome. Kvemo Kartli region is not exceptional in this respect. During the qualitative research participants of group discussions mainly discussed gender inequality from the ethnic perspective and attributed this type of inequality mainly to ethnic minorities, and especially, to the families of Azeri origin. The survey shows that such an approach is rather stereotyped. Kvemo Kartli region is characterized by traditional values, traditional families (extended families) and gender inequality. Ethnic inequality is not group specific and is observed in the entire region.

The survey shows the existence of strong gender stereotypes in the region. However, it is often incorrect to closely link them with religious affiliation (Christian/Muslim), ethnic origin (Georgian/non-Georgian) and type of settlement (urban/rural). For example, the Georgian population's sexual behavior exhibits dual standards: Restrictions are imposed on the woman's sexual behavior, and more freedom is

given to men. At the same time, Azeri population restricts the sexual behavior of both genders – men and women. The same applies to adultery: Georgians hold a radical attitude towards adultery on the part of woman, whereas in the case of man they do not think divorce is the only solution. Gender stereotypes should not be directly linked to religious beliefs. For example, ethnically Greek and Armenian population sometimes demonstrates more traditional beliefs than ethnically Azeri population. Therefore, we can conclude that gender stereotypes are typical of the entire region and are not determined by individual demographic characteristics.

In Kvemo Kartli region, the dominance of the man's gender role is especially striking in relation to the issues like community and social activities, management of money, sexual behavior, business and economic activity. Women's activity is mainly limited to family and making decisions on household issues is the woman's prerogative. The division of man's and woman's functions is not based on inter-gender physical differences, since the survey demonstrates that women also do quite a hard physical job (like carrying heavy containers with water, physical agricultural work, supplying the family with food products). It is interesting to note that gender stereotypes almost equally work with men and women, which points to the conformity¹² of the society in question.

The population's attitude to different government structures and non-government organizations operating in Kvemo Kartli region

One of the major attributes of democracy is a close relationship between population and the governing structures, which is a pre-condition for an effective functioning of any society. To study this parameter, the population in Kvemo Kartli region assessed different structures as well as the cooperation between the government structures and the population on different issues.

The research shows that the Kvemo Kartli population is highly indifferent to politics and governance issues. This is reflected in high indicators for the abstinence to answer the questions about the local governance and politics (typical response - "Difficult to answer"). The researched group's distancing from the local governance is partly determined by the linguistic barrier and a low showing for receiving information from the Georgian and local mass media.

Ethnic minorities are not involved in the current developments taking place in Kvemo Kartli region, which manifests in low awareness of different social issues, low level of involvement in the programs and low level of cooperation with government structures. When analyzing these data by ethnic affiliation dimension, the highest level of passivity is observed with Azeri population.

The above is largely determined by two factors: Poor mastery of the state language (Georgian) and insufficient access to the Media (which is also determined by poor knowledge of the Georgian language).

Kvemo Kartli population is least informed about the regional activity of the non-government sector. Respondents are not able to name the NGOs operating in the region. However, those who are informed, positively evaluate the NGOs' activities. In addition to the non-government sector, the local population finds it difficult to evaluate the Mass Media, Government structures and the business sector. And again, the major reason is an acute lack of information. A large share of Kvemo Kartli population (48.7%) does not possess sufficient information about the activity of government and self-governance structures. Therefore, respondents find it difficult to assess trust towards these institutions. Out of the evaluated institutions religious institutions constitute the majority. However, the population demonstrates a high

¹² If women realize that they are discriminated, the level of protest and frequency of domestic conflicts will increase.

level of religious centrism and negatively evaluates the institutions representing other religions. The part of the population informed about the government structures and authorities, positively evaluates their activity and shows a high level of trust. Men are more interested in politics than women. When viewed from the ethnic perspective, Georgian population shows more intense interest in political events than the Azeri and Armenian population. Dialogue between government and self-governance bodies on the one hand, and the population, on the other hand, is not very successful. The government structures are least active in the resolution of conflicts between the ethnic groups (as already mentioned, these conflicts are mainly caused by everyday problems).

The Kvemo Kartli population does not show the awareness of political parties, either. Positive evaluations are mainly made with regard to the ruling party and its representatives.

It has to be noted, that different trends are observed in Kvemo Kartli region. For example, Tsalka district is better informed about the government and self-governance structures and also reveals trust towards these bodies, whereas Marneuli district is highly indifferent. The difference between the districts is mainly determined by ethnic composition. In the districts with prevailing Azeri population, people are basically uninformed about the political processes and the relevant structures, and are highly inactive.

The Mass Media

Awareness of the developments taking place in the country (including the benefits meant for ethnic minorities) is an important factor favoring involvement in community activities. The Mass Media plays an important role in the regions densely populated with ethnic minorities (e.g. Kvemo Kartli). Research data show that in Kvemo Kartli region the most popular way of getting information is television. However, ethnic minorities prefer to receive information in their native language through the TV channels of neighboring countries. AzTV was named as the most frequently used channel on the territories densely populated with the Azeri. It turned out to be more popular in rural areas than in urban areas. The local television (Marneuli TV) turned out to be frequently used. Out of the TV channels used, Rustavi 2 and Imedi rate the highest. They also rate relatively high (in terms of the frequency of utilization and reliability) in the districts densely populated with non-Georgian residents. As for the press and the radio as the sources of information, they are not frequently used. The related level of trust is also very low. This seems to correlate with poor economic resources and low level of interest. Out of the press, Kviris Palitra seems to be more popular as well as yellow press editions. It has to be mentioned that in the Kvemo Kartli districts where non-Georgian population represents the majority, the press or the radio are hardly ever used as a source of information (this is more obvious in rural settlements).

The Internet is not accessible in different Kvemo Kartli districts (except for Rustavi) the basic reason being economic problems.

Kvemo Kartli population mainly receives information in their native language. Therefore, Georgians use the Georgian language to receive information. Also, the region's population actively uses the Russian language to receive information. However, on the territories densely populated with ethnic Azeri and Armenians, preference is given to receiving information in the native language.

In general, Kvemo Kartli region demonstrates a high level of mistrust towards the media (Over half of respondents think that the press and radio channels provide unreliable information, and one-fifth holds the same view regarding television). Trust towards the Mass Media positively correlates with their rating: The most popular sources of information and the included means are thought to be highly

reliable (e.g. In general, the most popular media is television; therefore, it has the highest reliability rating. Out of the TV companies, Rustavi 2 and Imedi were named as most reliable). In terms of the receipt of information, the Press and the Radio considerably fall behind the television; correspondingly, they are thought to be unreliable by a larger number of respondents.

On the whole, the access to the national media is limited in Kvemo Kartli region, which is caused by low level of Georgian language mastery with ethnic minorities. This, in its turn, contributes to their estrangement from Georgian community.

Demographic indicators and economic conditions of Kvemo Kartli population

Summary

This sub-chapter presents the general characteristics of Kvemo Kartli population regarding family size and structure, marital status, ethnic composition, confession, the achieved level of education, knowledge of the state language and employment. Apart from that, the chapter also describes the economic conditions of Kvemo Kartli population.

The findings of the study indicate the dominance of extended families in Kvemo Kartli region. The large number of children and small number of pension age population clearly proves that no trend of ageing is being observed among the population in the region. Besides, a big number of married couples and a small number of divorces indicate the existence of a traditional family pattern in the region. This trend is also confirmed by the fact, that in two-thirds of families, men are attributed the status of head of the family. Women appear to be the heads of the family for the absence of an adult man in a family. Affiliation between confession and ethnic identity is high. Consequently, the ratio distribution according to confessions almost coincides with that of ethnic groups. Georgian and consequently, Orthodox population prevail in the region (56.3% of Georgians), more than two-thirds are of Azeri origin (36.8% consisting of mostly Moslems); Armenians make up 5.6% who are representatives of Armenian Apostolic Church and are settled in Tsalka, Marneuli and Bolnisi districts.

Native language is mainly determined by ethnic origin, and consequently, for the 36.8% of ethnic Azeri population in Kvemo Kartli, the native language is Azerbaijani. Armenian is the native language for 5.4%, which is also close to the share of this ethnic group in the entire Kvemo Kartli population. Due to the compact settlement of ethnic minorities in Kvemo Kartli region, the level of mastery of state language is very low there. More than two-thirds of non-Georgian population do not speak Georgian. The lack of knowledge of the state language is particularly common among Azeri population. One third of ethnic Armenians do not speak Georgian. In other ethnic groups (Greeks, Russians, Poles, etc.) the level of mastery of Georgian language is higher. This is due to the fact that they do not live compactly and do not use native language in their communities. Therefore, they tend to learn Georgian more.

In every society the level of employment of the population is viewed as the precondition of economic advance and overcoming poverty. According to the National Statistics Office of Georgia, by 2010 the rate of unemployment was 16.4%. Despite this, the studies, as a rule, prove that employment is a painful issue for the population and the respondents name unemployment as the most problematic topic. Kvemo

Kartli population is no exception either: in the given survey, the respondents named unemployment as the most important problem (see more details in the sub-chapter: “Kvemo Kartli infrastructure and housing problems”).

As a result of the research it was revealed that 43.7% of the Kvemo Kartli population is employed. This showing cannot be considered a legitimate level as employment in Georgia is determined by International Labor Organization standards. According to these standards, persons above 15 who were capable to work or had been trying to start a job (i.e. were looking for a job) for the last 4 weeks, but could not get it, are considered unemployed. Those who have been temporarily dismissed or are between jobs also belong to this category. According to this definition, the unemployed is not considered a person who is a housewife, of the retirement age or does not seek the job regularly. Therefore, all those individuals, who worked during the previous week for at least one hour and was paid or reimbursed otherwise are considered to be employed. Thus, every citizen engaged in agricultural work from which their main income is agricultural products, is considered to be employed. Naturally, citizens assess unemployment by different criteria. Those who not only for 4 weeks, but for a longer period have not even been interested in vacancies, also call themselves unemployed. What is more, part of citizens considers that employment is only a hired job, resulting in steady income. The research has also proved the above attitude: the results have shown that the distinct majority of unemployed respondents (71.8%) have not been looking for jobs for the last four weeks (i.e., according to ILO standard they are not considered unemployed). In this case the reason is respondents' frustration. The research shows that part of unemployed respondents does not regularly seek jobs since, as they explain, job hunting does not make any sense as they are not likely to get it. Such attitude is especially true of rural population, where paid jobs are almost not available.

An economic condition of families is the repercussion of region's economic situation. The economic situation of Kvemo Kartli population was measured by different tools during the research. We employed self-assessment, as well as objective and relative poverty measuring tools.

The research results point to heavy economic background in Kvemo Kartli households. This, in the first place can be seen from family's income which is mainly spent on elementary needs (food, taxes and medication). Entertainment/leisure and the purchase of household goods are an inaccessible luxury for the respondents.

One of the modern approaches for measuring poverty is material deprivation. Here we mean implementation of certain activities (for instance, covering contingent costs, or going on holidays), or possessing material objects necessary for living in the community. According to material deprivation, Kvemo Kartli population is in a grave economic state, since one third of households are below the poverty line. As for self-assessment, only 29% of Kvemo Kartli population assesses its economic status as average or above average level.

Having analyzed the data according to different perspectives, it turned out that poverty is concentrated mainly in villages. Economic situation is particularly grave in Marneuli, Bolnisi and Gardabani regions (relatively small part of Tsalka and Rustavi population is below the poverty line). By ethnicity, mostly

ethnic minorities perceive themselves as poor. This trend is partly caused by minority phenomenon (researchers consider that minorities tend to aggravate their own state (including economic state).

Family structure

The average size of the family in Kvemo Kartli population exceeds the country's average indicator (which equals to 3.6) and makes up 3.9. This indicator varies in separate districts and fluctuates between 3.1 (in Dmanisi) and 4.6 (in Gardabani). In villages the average family size (4.1) is slightly larger than in cities (3.7). The average number of family members belonging to different age groups, according to districts is shown on Table №D1 below:

Table № D1: Average number of family members according to different indicators (means)

District	Average number of members in a family				
	Children up to 5 years	Children between 6-8	Adults below retirement age	Members of the retirement age	Family members
Dmanisi	0.17	0.58	1.85	0.49	3.09
Bolnisi	0.27	0.62	2.15	0.53	3.57
Rustavi	0.25	0.52	2.40	0.43	3.61
Tsalka	0.31	0.89	2.10	0.56	3.85
Tetritskharo	0.32	0.62	2.39	0.74	4.07
Marneuli	0.32	0.81	2.63	0.56	4.32
Gardabani	0.48	0.87	2.62	0.67	4.64
Kvemo Kartli	0.31	0.69	2.40	0.55	3.95

Most frequently, in Dmanisi district we come across the families with no pension age members. 18.2% of Dmanisi families are such. The fact, that the share of families consisting of only pensioners is the lowest in Rustavi (6.1%) suggests that Rustavi dwellers prefer to live in villages after retirement. The highest number of pre-school age children members is most frequently observed in Gardabani. Almost every third family has at least one child under 5 years old. The share of families consisting of different age groups, according to districts is given on Table № D2 below:

Table № D2: The share of families with different age group members, according to districts (%)

	Share of families in total			
	With children up to 5 years	With children between 6-8	With members below retirement age without adults	With members of only retirement age
Rustavi	18.7	34.3	6.1	6.1
Marneuli	23.7	49.7	8.7	8.5
Bolnisi	19.9	38.0	13.5	12.5
Dmanisi	14.2	34.2	18.2	17.7
Tetritskharo	21.5	38.7	14.7	14.5
Tsalka	23.1	47.2	14.6	13.6
Gardabani	32.8	49.7	9.8	9.8
Kvemo Kartli	22.6	41.8	10.14	9.86

Traditionally, in Georgia a man is considered the head of the family, regardless the fact whether he is the main bread winner or not. That is why it should not be surprising that only slightly more than a quarter (27.8%) of Kvemo Kartli families consider a woman to be the head of the family. Besides, a woman being the head of the family is reported only in one or two-member families mostly, and that is when families consist of only women. Women, as family heads, are most frequently named in Gardabani (30.5%), and most rarely in Tsalka (17.4%). The share of families who have named a woman as a head of the family is given on Table № D3 below according to districts.

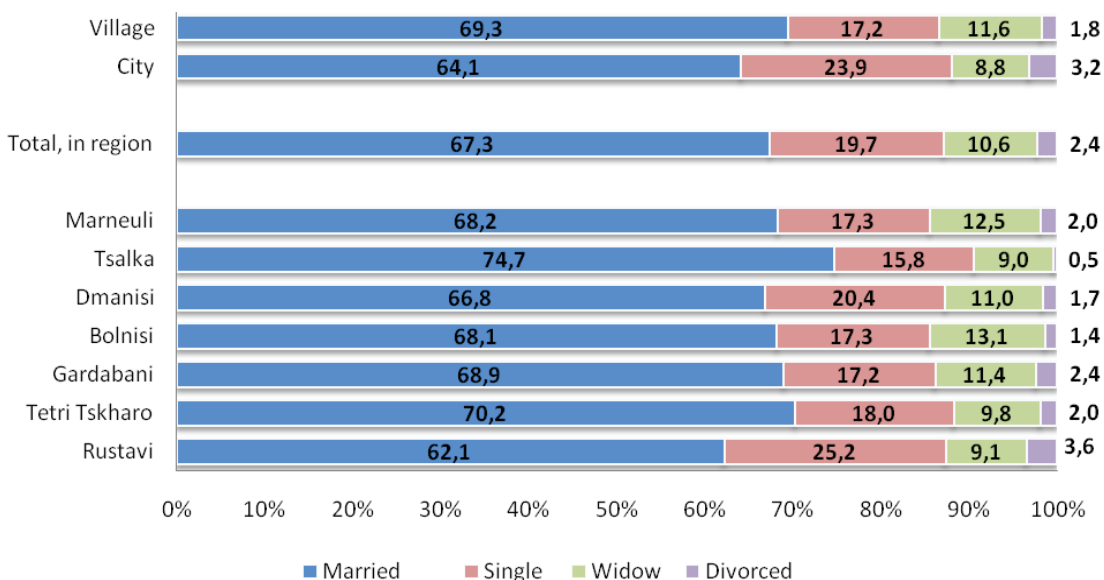
Table № D3: The share of families who have named a woman as the family head, according to districts and the number of family members (indicators shown in %)

Districts	Number of family members						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6+	
Rustavi	69.1	42.9	18.8	20.5	17.4	24.1	28.3
Marneuli	78.6	26.8	18.0	19.2	34.6	27.0	28.8
Bolnisi	82.3	31.5	25.8	13.5	28.0	15.8	29.7
Dmanisi	64.0	19.6	12.0	8.2	15.1	25.8	23.9
Tetri Tskharo	73.7	27.5	17.9	15.0	26.6	10.1	23.7
Tsalka	71.7	11.9	20.2	6.3	15.5	5.3	17.4
Gardabani	69.0	30.3	28.8	20.6	35.4	29.7	30.5
Kvemo Kartli	73.1	31.3	20.7	17.7	27.3	23.3	27.8

Marital status

The survey results have shown that more than two thirds of the population above 18 is married. Only 1.8% is divorced and almost one fifth (19.7%) is single. Graph №D1 below shows the distribution of population according to their marital status in district and village/ town perspective:

Graph №D1: Distribution of the population above 18 according to their family status (given % for the type of settlement, districts and region)

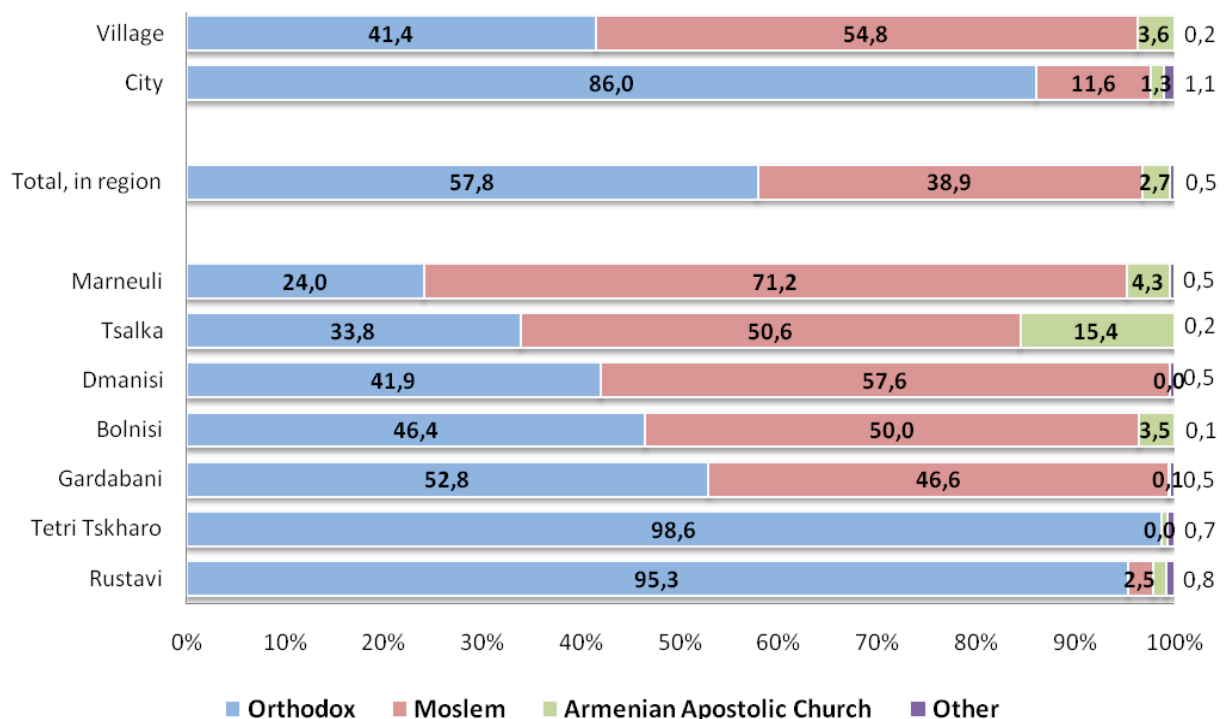


Religious confessions

According to religious confessions, there are three main religious groups in Kvemo Kartli region: Orthodox Christian (57.8% of the population), Moslem (38.9%) and representatives of Armenian Apostolic Church (2.7%). Other confessions (Catholic, Judaist, etc.,) are relatively rare and their share in the population is 0.5%.

Orthodox followers dominate in towns. They make up 86% of the town population, while villages are more populated by Moslems (54.8%). In Rustavi and Tetrtskharno, there are mainly Orthodox Christians (95.3% and 98.6%, respectively), and the most part of Marneuli district population is Moslems (71%). There is also a high share of Moslems in Dmanisi (57.5%), Bolnisi (50.0%) and Gardabani (46.6%) districts. Graph № D2 below shows the distribution of the population according to religious confessions in districts and villages/towns.

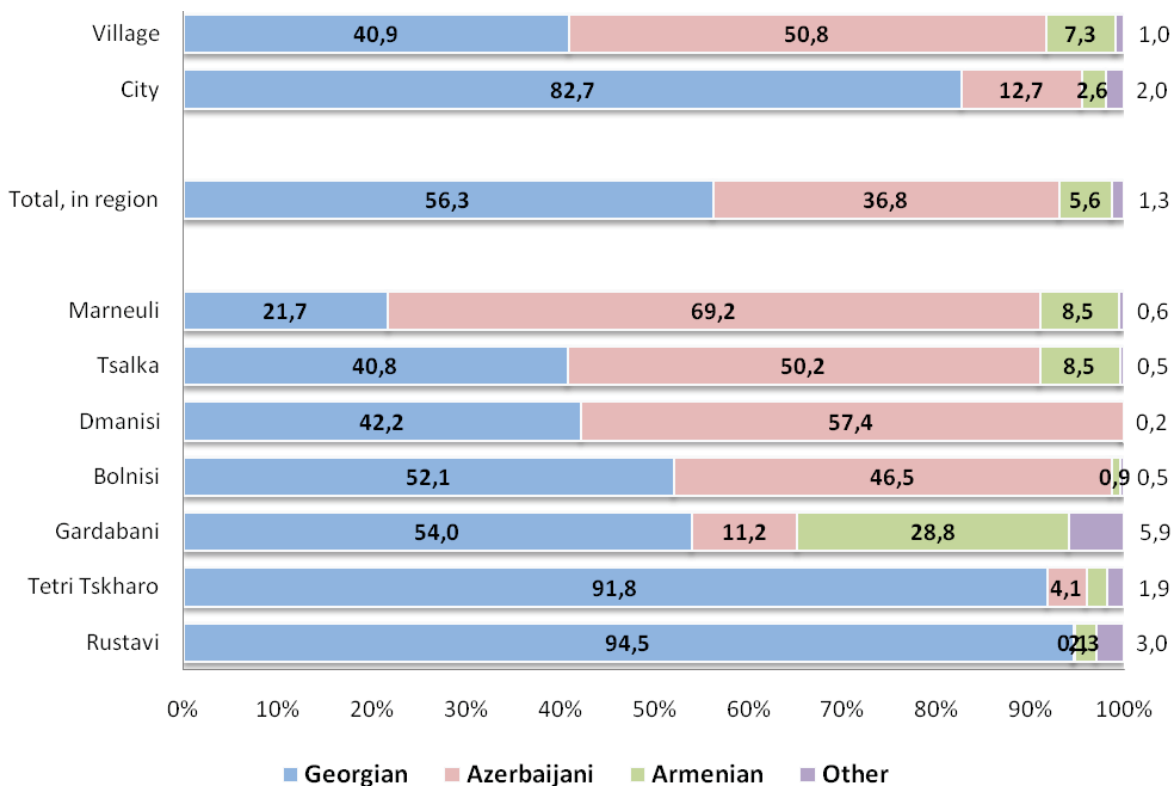
Graph № D2: the distribution of the population according to religious confessions (% given for the type of settlement, district and region)



Ethnic composition

56.3% of the region's population is Georgian. They are the major ethnic groups in Rustavi (91.8%) and Tetrtskharno (94.5%) districts. More than half of Gardabani population is Georgian (52.1%). Main part of Marneuli, Dmanisi and Bolnisi population are Azeris (69.2%, 57.4% and 50.2% respectively). In total, Azeri make up two thirds (36.8%) of Kvemo Kartli population. Armenians mainly live in Tsalka where they constitute 28.8%. Graph № D3 shows the distribution of population according to ethnicity by districts, region and villages/towns.

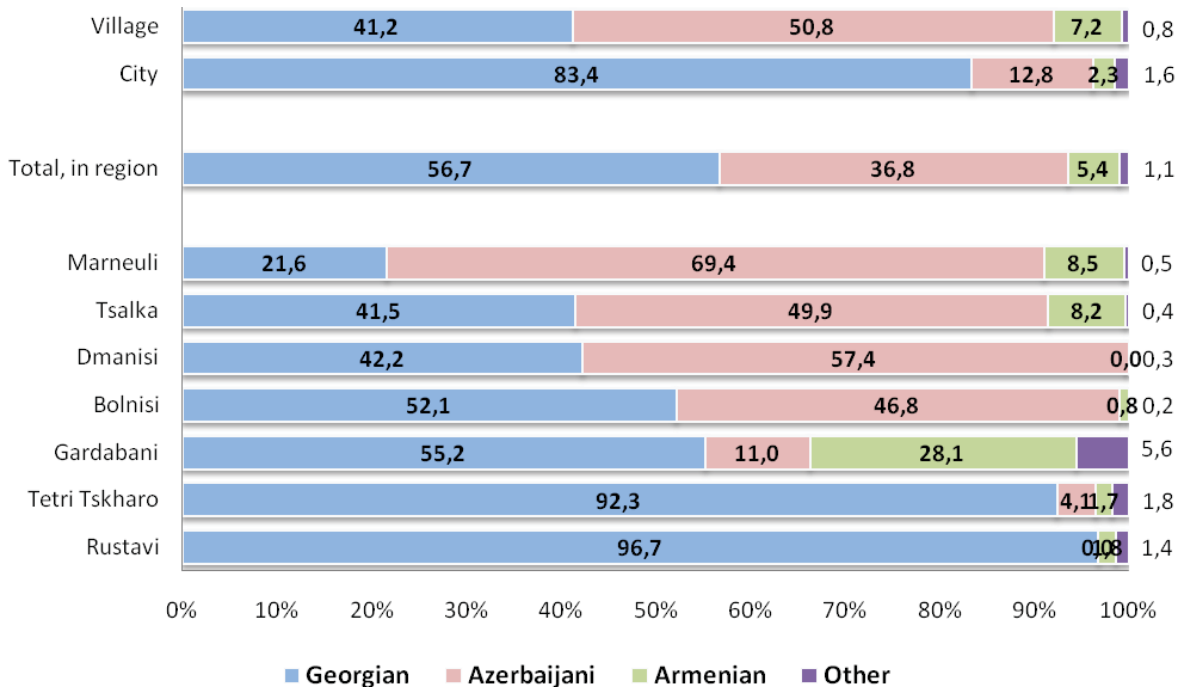
Graph № D3: distribution of population according to ethnicity (given % for the type of settlement, district, and region)



Native language and the level of mastery of Georgian language

Survey results confirm that native language is largely determined by ethnicity. Thus, in this respect the distribution of the population is similar to that according to nationality. Namely, 56.7% of the region population considers Georgian as their native language. Azerbaijani is the native language for 36.8% of the population (for ethnic Azeri) and Armenian for 5.4% (for ethnic Armenians). Graph № D4 below shows the distribution of the population according to native languages by districts and villages/towns.

Graph №D4: distribution of the population according to native languages (given in percentage settlement type, districts and region)

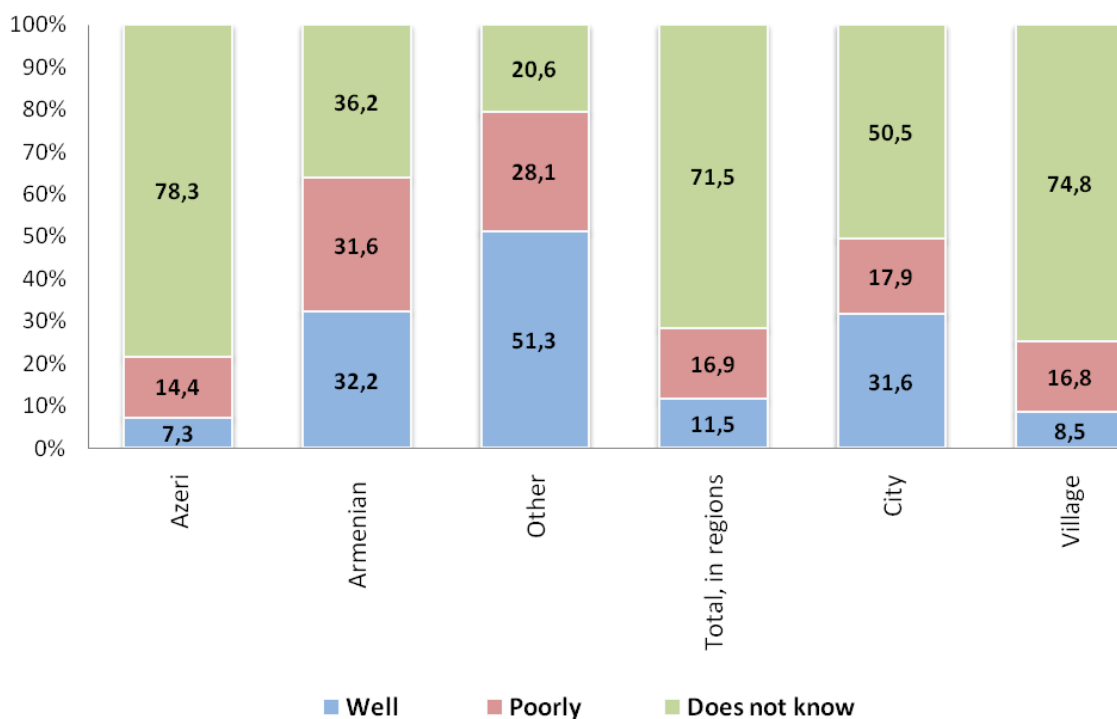


The knowledge of the state language is one of the important factors in terms of population’s involvement in social-economic life of the region. Lack of ability to speak the official language causes estrangement in non-Georgian citizens and evokes aggression. Therefore, it was interesting to find out how well the non-Georgian population of the region could speak Georgian language. We have divided the mastery of the Georgian language into three levels:

1. Fluent: the respondent knows language well and can read, write and speak fluently.
2. Poor: the respondent can speak but cannot read or write.
3. No knowledge: the respondent does not understand and cannot speak Georgian.

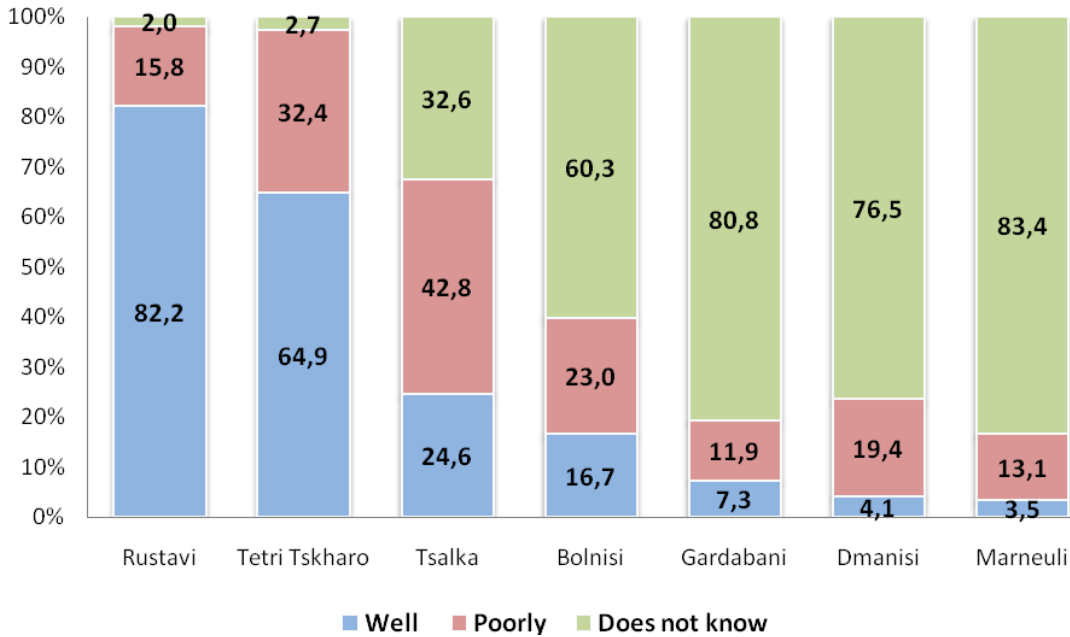
The research has shown that among national minorities of Kvemo Kartli region, the situation is rather grave in terms of Georgian language knowledge. Over two thirds (71.5%) of non-Georgian population above six years old, do not know Georgian. In this respect, Azeri population stands out; since 78.3% of them mention that they cannot speak Georgian. This number is lower among Armenian population. Slightly more than one- third of Armenians (36.3%) does not know the state language. Only one- ninth (11.5%) of non-Georgian population can speak Georgian well. Compared to villages, in towns there are fewer problems, however, here too, half of the non-Georgian population does not know Georgian. Graph № D5 below shows the distribution of the mastery of Georgian language according to levels among non-Georgian population aged over 6 years by nationalities, villages/towns.

Graph № D5: Distribution of non-Georgian population of different nationalities above 6 years according to the Georgian language knowledge levels (shown in % for settlement types, ethnic groups and regions)



Among regions, the worst situation in terms of the knowledge of Georgian language is in Marneuli, where 83.4% of non-Georgian population notes that they do not know Georgian language. Similarly, the situation is bad in Gardabani (80.8%) and Dmanisi (76.5%). Situation is relatively better in the regions mostly populated by Georgians. Here non-Georgian population can also speak Georgian. Namely, 82.2% of non-Georgian population in Rustavi and 64.9% in Tetrtskharo can speak Georgian fluently, while the share of those who do not speak Georgian is minimal (2.0% and 2.7% respectively). In Tsalka, a quarter (24.6%) of non-Georgian population knows Georgian well and one-third (32.6%) cannot speak the language at all. Graph № D6 shows the distribution of Georgian language knowledge level among non-Georgian population above 6 years by regions.

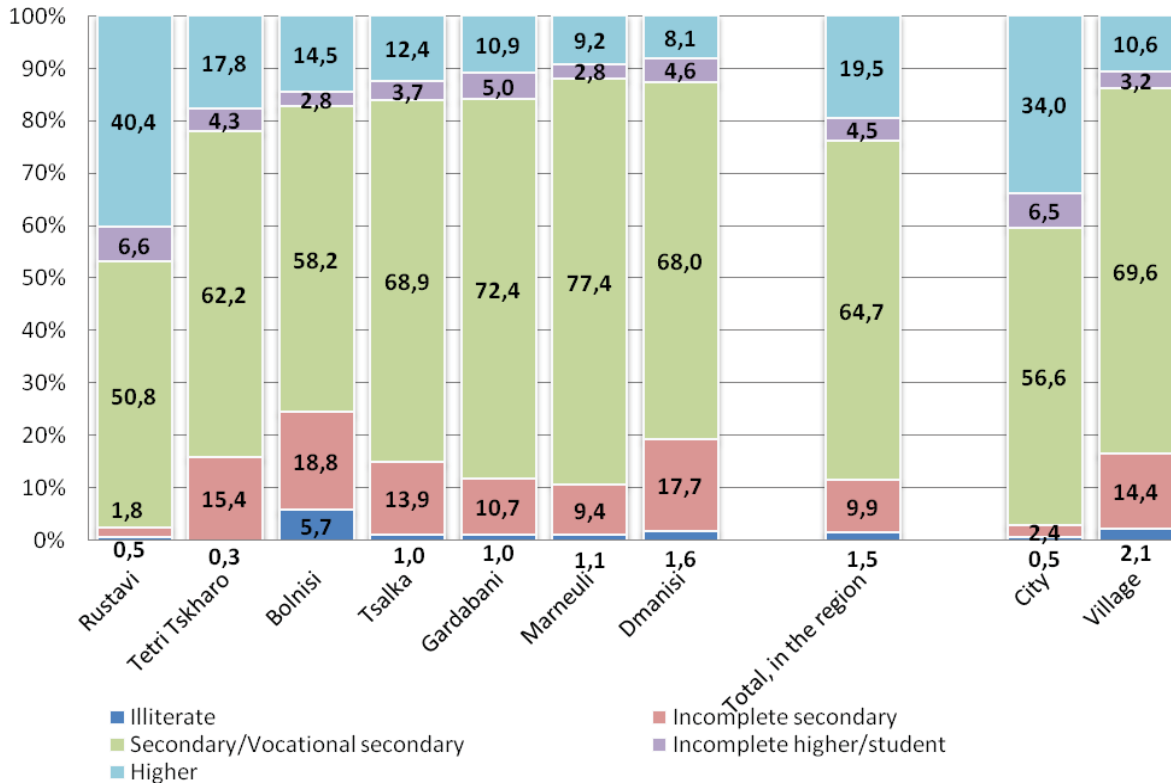
Graph № D6: distribution of Georgian language knowledge level among non-Georgian population above 6 years (shown in % by districts)



The achieved level of education

Population with secondary and vocational secondary education is the major part of the population above 18 years (68.0%). 19.5% has higher education. 17.7% has incomplete secondary education. The share of people with higher education is higher in towns (34.0%) than in villages (10.6%). Graph № D7 below shows the distribution of the population above 18 according to the achieved level of education by districts and villages/towns.

Graph N D7: distribution of the population above 18 according to the achieved level of education (shows % by districts and villages/towns)



Employment rate in Kvemo Kartli

The question about employment was asked about all family members above 15. Respondents determined their employment status themselves by answering the following question: “Have you been employed in the last week for at least 1 hour?” As the research has shown, 43.7% of people aged above 15 gave positive answers. The highest rate of employment is in Tsalka (73.8%) and the lowest – in Gardabani (29.1%). To explain such disparity it is necessary to take the following fact into account: according to the employed methodology, a person, who has worked for at least one hour was considered employed. Fieldwork of the above survey was conducted in August, 2011, when agricultural works had practically been over in Gardabani, while in Tsalka people were actively involved in agricultural activities.

It should be noted that in general, citizens define their own status of employment differently: often respondents do not consider themselves employed unless they work with their profession, get stable payment or work on their own land. While according to the survey (which complied with international criteria of employment), working on the own land, any individual activity (self-employment), selling home-produced goods, any kind of job, even with unstable income, etc. were considered as employment. Thus we should assume that certain part of the respondents gave negative answer to the question (“Have you been employed in the past week for at least 1 hour?”). Consequently, the rate of employment as shown by survey results compared to official criteria of employment is likely to be low.

The survey results show that the main activity of Kvemo Kartli population (except Rustavi) is working on their plot of land. Rustavi population is mainly engaged in paid jobs which makes up 76.3% (see table №D4).

Table № D4: Distribution of the employed in regions according to employment type and the rate of unemployment (shown in %)

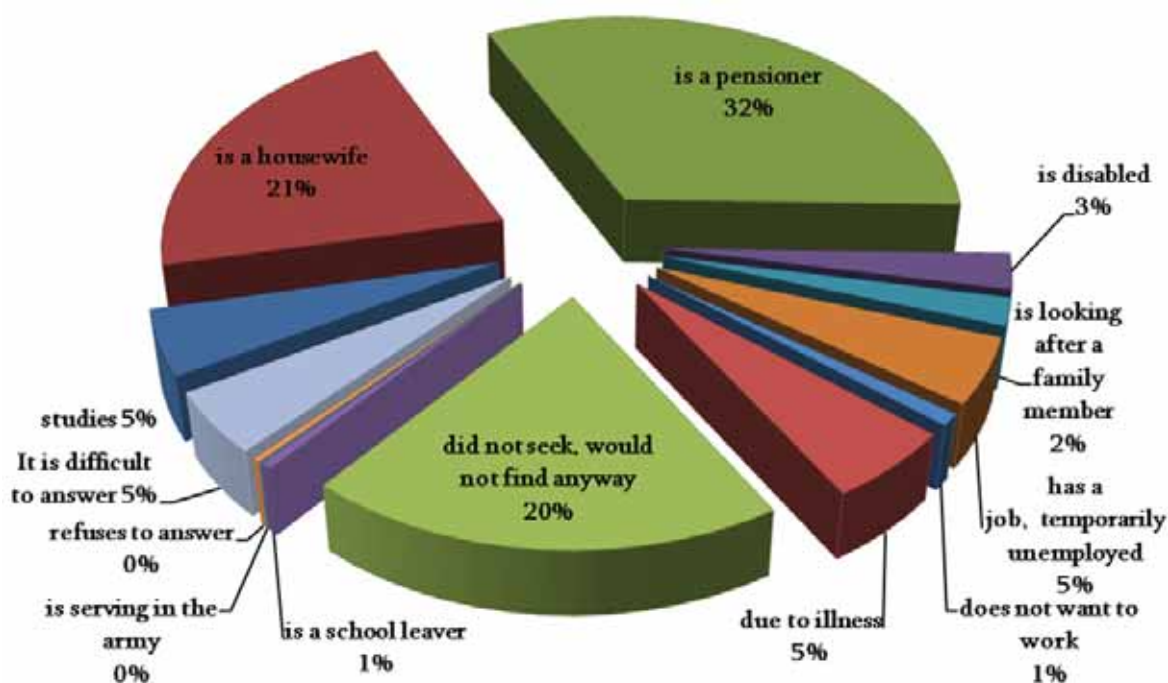
District	The share of the employed among the population above 15 years	Distribution of the employed according to the type of employment				Unemployment rate
		Has own business	Has a paid job	Works on own farm	Other	
Rustavi	40.5	6.0	76.3	2.5	15.3	33.1
Marneuli	52.5	3.7	16.7	63.2	16.4	15.5
Bolnisi	49.0	1.7	23.0	39.3	36.0	21.7
Dmanisi	42.9	2.4	10.0	76.2	11.5	32.4
Tetritskharo	36.6	9.6	25.7	41.8	22.9	35.3
Tsalka	73.8	1.6	15.5	80.5	2.4	2.6
Gardabani	29.1	4.1	39.3	44.1	12.5	38.5
Kvemo Kartli	43.7	4.1	35.7	42.5	17.6	26.1

According to the definition of the International Labor Organization (ILO), a person who has been trying to find a paid job for the past four weeks is considered unemployed. If we measure the rate of unemployment by this criterion, we will get a rather positive result, since the unemployed population does not try hard to seek jobs. In this respect, Kvemo Kartli is no exception – 71.8% of the unemployed had not been looking for jobs during four weeks (which is 38.1% of the entire Kvemo Kartli population). Consequently, if we calculate the rate of unemployment in Kvemo Kartli region according to the above standard of the International Labor Organization, it will amount to 15% in this region.

It turned out that the population living in towns is trying harder to find jobs than those in villages. In Tsalka and Marneuli districts most of the unemployed have not been trying hard to find jobs during the past four weeks. The difference has been revealed according to ethnicities as well: Georgian unemployed population are trying to find jobs while the population of Armenian and Azeri origin reveal the high level of inactivity.

It is important to find out the reason of the population's economic inactivity. Graph № D8 reflects the reasons why Kvemo Kartli unemployed population did not try to find jobs. The research shows that the main reason happens to be the respondents' pessimistic mood, in other words, they think they will not be able to find a job anyway. 76.1% in villages and 23.9% in towns have no hope to find a job. In rural areas there is actually no potential of employment as there are fewer paid jobs in agricultural sector. Consequently, the perspective for rural population is the migration to urban areas or abroad. Thus, those citizens staying in villages rarely seek jobs. With regard to ethnicity, population of Azeri origin complains more than Georgians and Armenians about the lack of perspective of finding jobs and they name it to be the main reason for not seeking jobs.

Graph N D8: Why there have not been any attempts to find a paid job for the past four weeks (shown in %)



Family incomes and economic situation

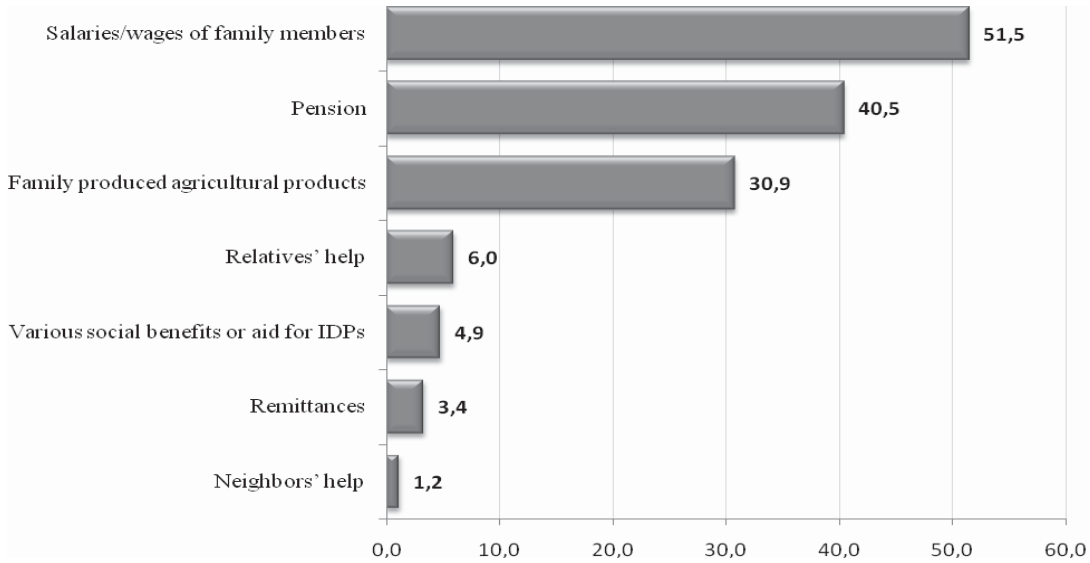
Families most frequently name the main source of their income their family member's salary/wages (51.5% of families). For 40.5% of families the only income is their pension. Family-produced agricultural products are the only income for less than one-third (30.9%) of families. Graph N° D9 shows the percentage shares of families according to their main income (the sum total of percentage is more than 100, since a family might have more than one source of income).

As is seen from the graph, only for 3.4% of families the main source of income is money transfer from their family members who are temporarily away. However, more than one-third (34.7%) of families whose at least one member temporarily lives away from the family, depends on money transfers from these members.

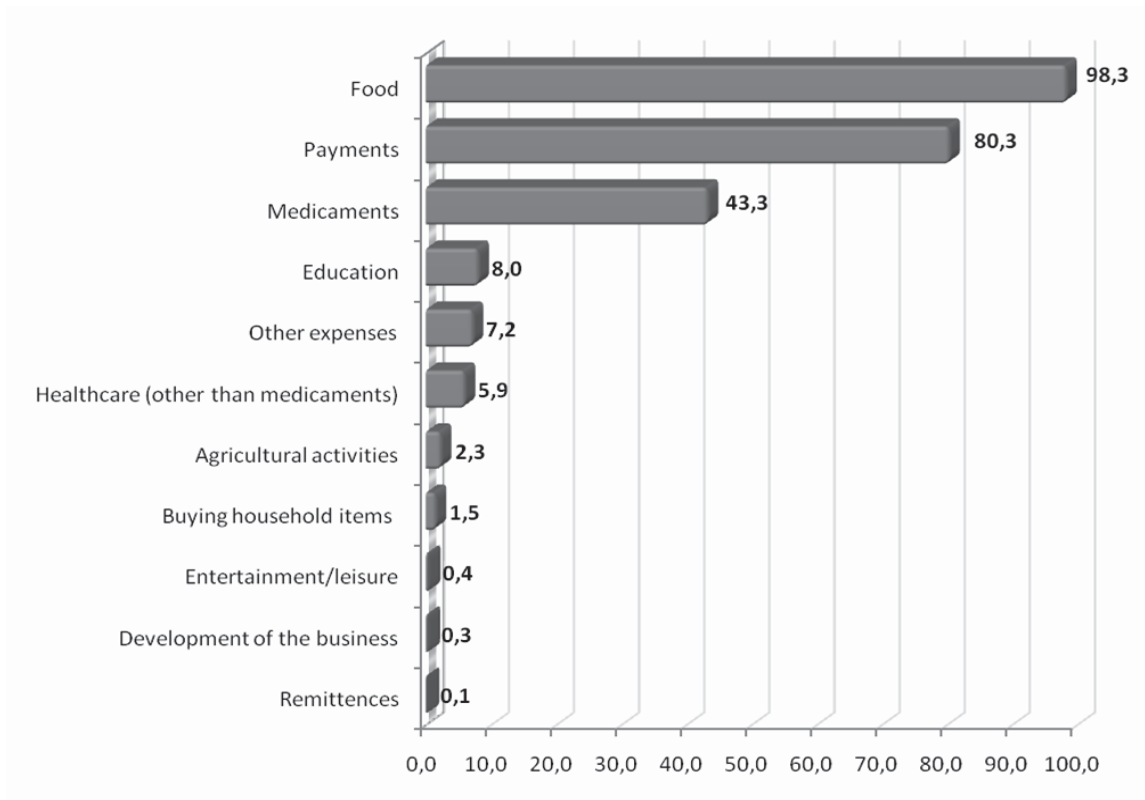
For the absolute majority of families (98.3%), food expenses is the considerable part of their monetary expenses. 80.3% of families considers paying bills as an essential expense. Only 0.4% of the families in the region were able to spend the significant part of their expenses on entertainment/leisure and 0.3% of families could spend on the development of their business. These data clearly indicate the standard of living of the population that does not look that much attractive.

Graph N° D10 shows percentage of the share of families according to their expenses (the total sum of percentage is more than 100, since the main expenses of a family might fall under more than one item).

Graph №D9: What is the main source of income for your family? (Shown in %)



Graph N D10: What is the main income of your family spent on? (%)

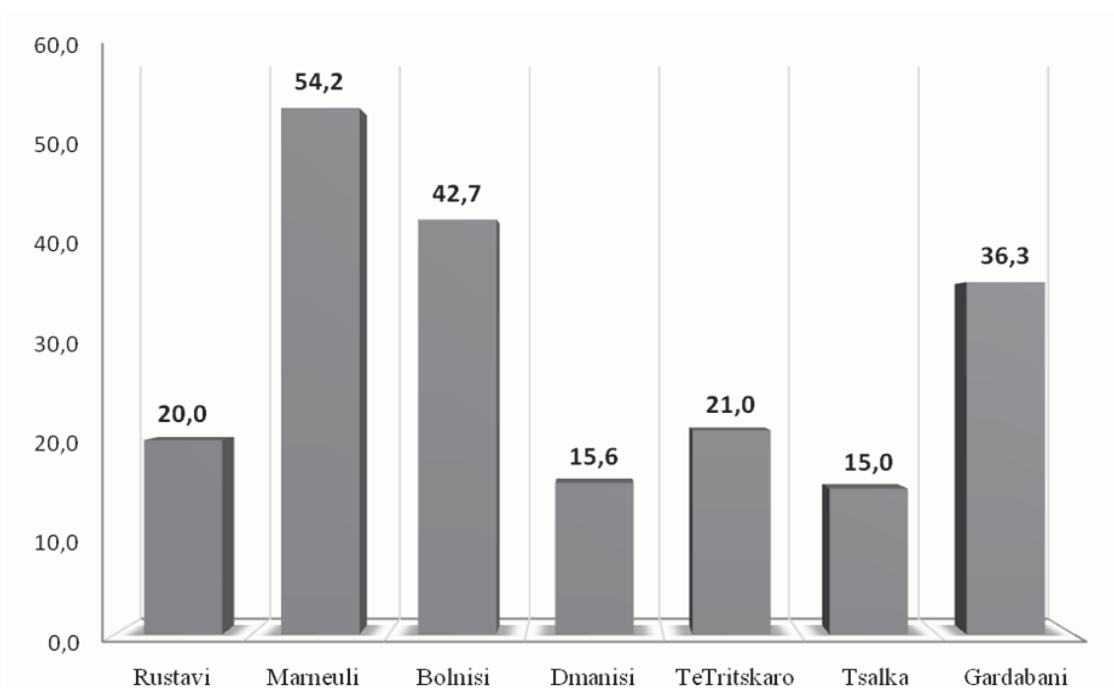


Most widely spread method for measuring the poverty level is comparison of family expenses to subsistence rate. Within the given research it was impossible to measure consumer spending precisely

due to difficulties in assessment and complexity of research. That is why, we used alternative approaches for measuring the economic state of families. These methods of poverty measurement are used not as much for the assessment of absolute poverty as for the comparison of the level of welfare of sampled population among different groups (town/village, districts, etc.) . They express different aspects of family welfare and the assessments as a result of using the above aspects do not always show similar results.

- Poverty level according to the share of food expenditures in total expenses of a family. The lower the economic state of the family, the higher the share of food expenditure in the family's total expenses is . When this share exceeds 70%, the family is considered to be poor. According to the above criterion, one- third (31.1%) of Kvemo Kartli population turns out to be poor. In families with migrant members (internal and external migration) the poverty level is lower (23.8%) than in those whose members do not live outside the families (33.6%). Poverty rate in towns is much lower (23.3%) than in villages (39.4%). Poverty level is lower in Georgian families (25.3%) than in Azeri families (46.4%). Among districts, the level of poverty is the highest in Marneuli (54.2%) and the lowest in Tsalka (15%). Graph №D 11 shows the level of poverty measured according to the share of food expenditures in family's total expenses.

Graph №D 11: Poverty levels in districts according to the share of food expenditures in total expenses



- Deprivation poverty. According to this approach, a family can be said to be in poverty if it cannot participate in certain activities and lacks the resources typical for active living patterns of a society they belong to.

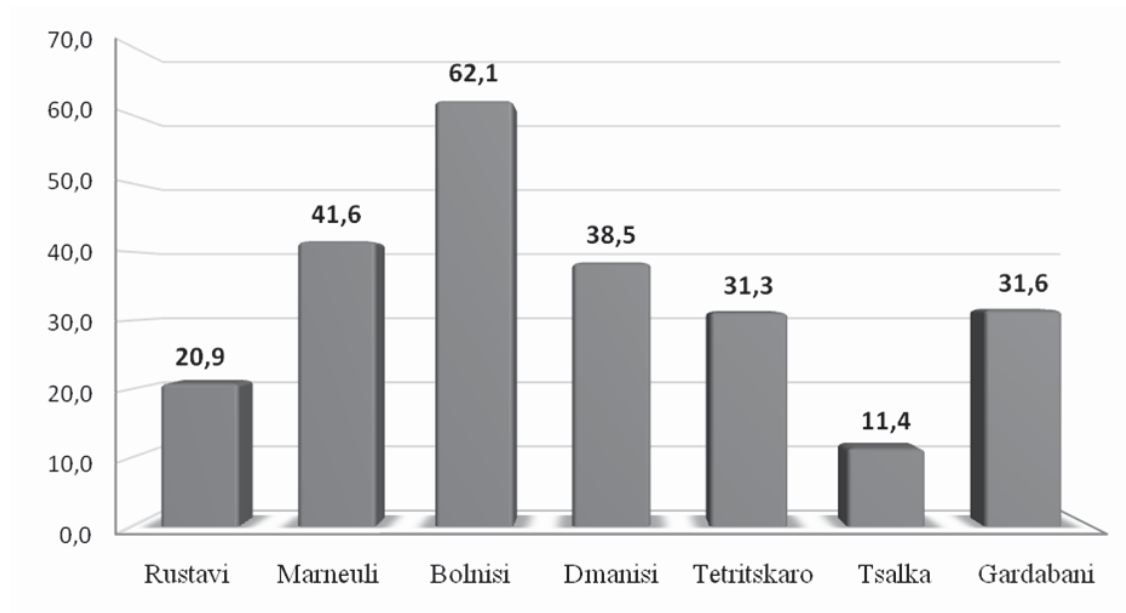
To measure deprivation poverty the respondents were given the following question: “Can your family conduct the activities listed below and do you possess items that are currently in good working condition?”

- Cover unforeseen expenses
- Go on holiday once a year, at least for a week
- Pay debts
- Have fish or meat at least once in two days
- Heat the flat
- Have washing machine
- Have color TV
- Have telephone (landline or cellular phone)
- Own a car
- Have the internet at home¹³

The family was considered to be in poverty, if out of given 10 items, 7 got a negative answer¹⁴.

According to material deprivation criterion, 34.5% of Kvemo Kartli families are poor. In this respect, poverty level in a town is much lower (23.9%) than in a village (41.3%). Among districts, the lowest level of poverty is in Tsalka (11.4%), and the highest in Bolnisi (62.1%). Graph N D 12 shows deprivation poverty levels according to districts.

Graph N D 12: deprivation poverty levels according to districts



In Georgian families deprivation poverty level is lower (26.1%) than in Azeri (47.8%) and Armenian (43.0%) families. In the families from which at least one member is temporarily away (is in another region of Georgia or outside Georgia), deprivation poverty is much less (19.7%) than in families without a migrant member (35.4%).

¹³ The list coincides with the ones according to which EU measures deprivation poverty

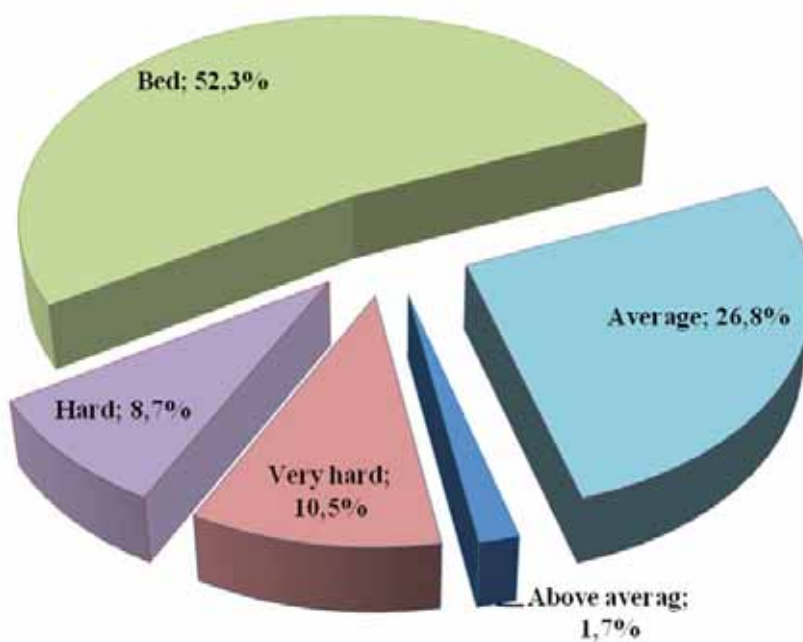
¹⁴ Marginal number of negative answers (7) was taken so as to bring the level of deprivation poverty to the poverty level measured according to the share of food expenses into proximity as much as possible

- Self-assessment of economic state. Respondents were asked the following question: “What is the economic situation of your family?” We used the following scale for answers:

1. Very hard, we suffer from lack of food regularly
2. Hard, always need help from someone to get some food
3. Bad, the income/ or home-produced goods are just enough to get food
4. Average, our income is enough for food and clothing, but we cannot save up to buy expensive items.
5. Above average, we can afford to buy expensive items with our income

Graph № D13 shows the distribution of answers to the above question

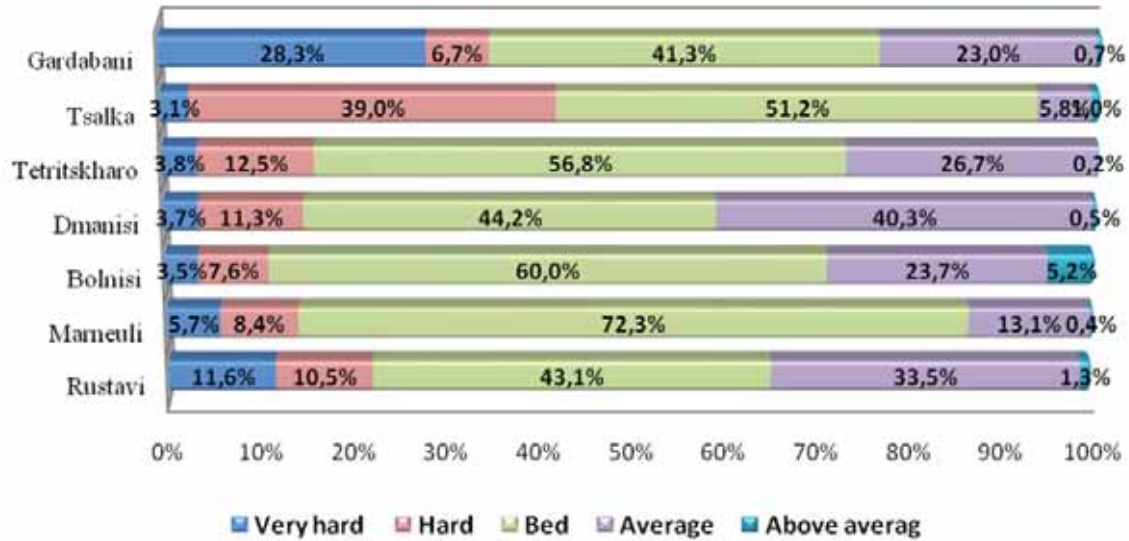
Graph № D 13: Self - assessment of economic conditions by families (shown in %)



As can be seen on Graph № D 13, more than half of the respondents assess their economic situation as bad. 29% of families consider their economic situation to be average or above average.

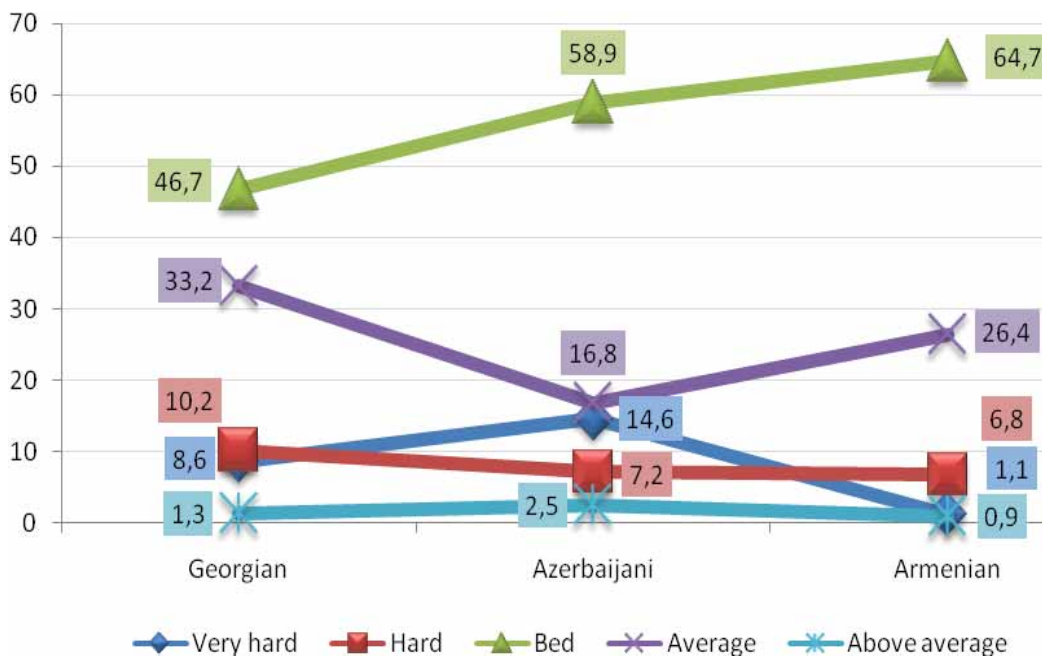
Among districts, a relatively better self-assessment of economic conditions has been given by families in Tsalka, Dmanisi and Rustavi, while Marneuli, Bolnisi and Tetritskharo families' assessment was worse. (See graph №D 14).

Graph N D14: Self –assessment of the economic situation by families (shown in % according to districts)



Among families of different nationalities, the positive assessment of their economic situation is most often given by Georgians (34.5% of families), while Azeri families (22.0%) assess it as hard and very hard. Graph №D 15 shows the distribution of families of different nationalities according to self-assessment of their economic situation.

Graph №D15: self-assessment of economic situation by families (% according to ethnicity)



Infrastructure and housing conditions in Kvemo Kartli

Summary

Infrastructure is basic physical and organizational structures whose smooth functioning is an essential precondition for the operation of a society. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, public infrastructure in Georgia, as in other post-Soviet countries, was damaged and failed to function. The development of these processes was extremely painful in regions; in terms of infrastructure, the gap between the center and periphery was increasing. Over the past years Georgian government has been focused on the rehabilitation and development of the infrastructure. This trend has significantly influenced Kvemo Kartli region as well. While conducting the research we attempted to find out direct or indirect implications the rehabilitation of infrastructure components have had on the population of Kvemo Kartli region as well as its current state.

The research has revealed that the population most frequently points out the rehabilitation/expansion of gas supply system. The process of reconstruction and rehabilitation also applied to schools, roads and water systems. Pre-school institutions and medical establishments least frequently occur among the rehabilitated components. Examination of the data according to regions shows that the rehabilitation process has mainly affected Kvemo Kartli regional and urban center – Rustavi. Infrastructure development was least indicated by Tsalka and Marneuli population.

As it is known, under a well - functioning infrastructure the population uses its components more frequently and also improves economic activities. Consequently, we tried to find out what positive short-term and long-term results had been obtained after the rehabilitation of different components of the infrastructure. Despite the fact, that the projects had no serious impact which would have been possible to express in weighted percentage points (majority of the population indicates (98-99%) that rehabilitation has had no effect on them), some quantifiable positive results have yet been revealed: during and after the rehabilitation process, family members have been given employment, families started and developed small/medium businesses, the level of school education and the indicator of the use of medical establishments have risen.

The achieved results of infrastructure rehabilitation has been reflected in respondents' assessment of solved problems. Most of the problems that have been settled for Kvemo Kartli population are: power supply, payment of pensions/ allowances, safe environment and transport facilities. The problem that Kvemo Kartli population perceives as most severe is unemployment and in this trend it is not an exception.¹⁵ Following unemployment, the next severe problem has been named the lack of entertainment and leisure facilities (cinema, theatre, etc.), restriction of assembly and demonstrations lack/malfunctioning of educational establishments and irrigation water supply. Despite these general trends, while analyzing the data we should consider them within the districts, according to which we can clearly see the problems relevant to each district (See the sub-chapter- Problematic issues in Kvemo Kartli region).

¹⁵ In the survey conducted by UNICEF, (Welfare monitoring survey, 2010) unemployment is named as number one problem.

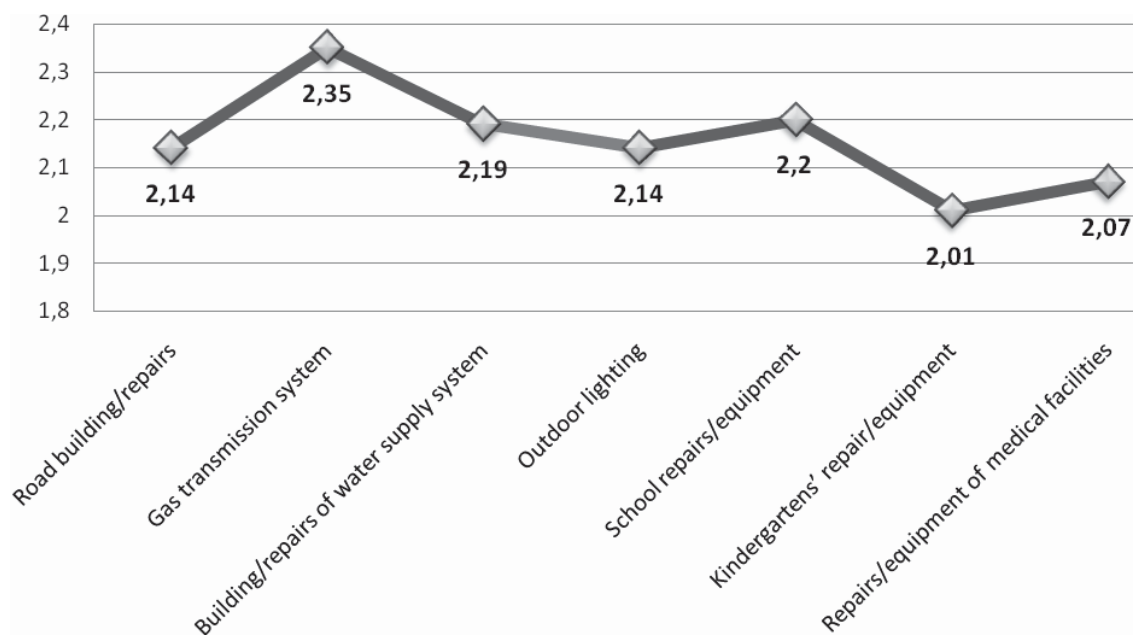
Housing conditions of households are largely determined by two factors; on the one hand, it is the economic conditions of the family and on the other, the level of infrastructure development of the settlement area. Different sociological surveys prove that housing problems considerably differ in villages and towns. Rural settlements mostly lack centralized regular water supply, sewage, heating, hot water systems. However, such infrastructure is as undeveloped in district centers and small towns in Kvemo Kartli region, which negatively reflects on the family's everyday life and the health of family members; household activities require more time, which is an especially heavy burden for women.

Families in Kvemo Kartli regions mostly own their living spaces. Consequently, there are fewer problems of paying rents. However, there are cases (mainly in Tsalka district), when the flat has been rented out by the owner. In such cases, their problem is that they are constantly under the fear that the owner will one day ask them to vacate the house. Due to the fact that in Kvemo Kartli there are numerous big size families, part of households have the problem of insufficient living space. In some cases families with eight and more members live in one room. Living in unfit buildings with poor water supply and heating systems is the most problematic for Kvemo Kartli population. Despite the above problems, half of Kvemo Kartli population is more or less satisfied with their living conditions, while the part of the population who suffer from the above problems cannot see any perspective of improvement of their conditions.

Rehabilitation of infrastructure in Kvemo Kartli Region

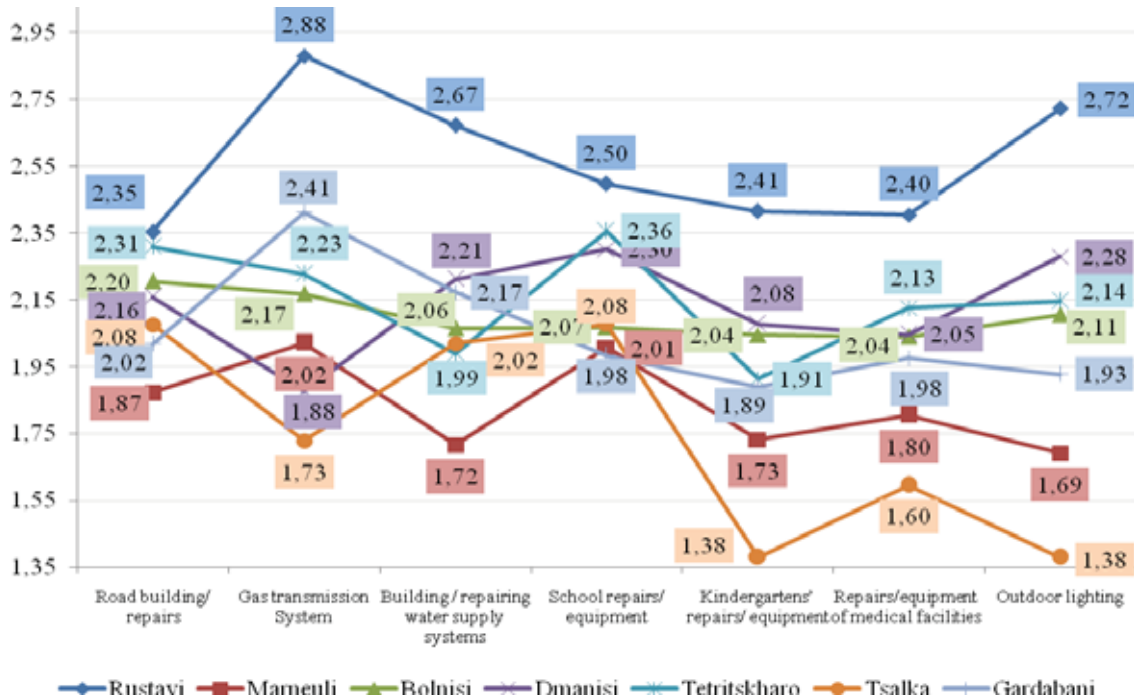
Several projects initiated by the state and private companies have been implemented with the aim to improve infrastructure in Kvemo Kartli region, as well as in other parts of Georgia. During the research the respondents were given seven different projects on the improvement of infrastructure and they were to assess whether each of them has been rehabilitated or improved in Kvemo Kartli region. We should also consider that despite referring to Kvemo Kartli region, respondents mainly answered the questions about their own settlement. The positive side of this trend is that we can judge to what extent the infrastructure rehabilitation has affected each district. Graph №H1 shows the means of infrastructure rehabilitation assessment. The assessment was made according to a three –point scale on which 3 meant “fully implemented”, 2- “partially implemented”, 1 – “not implemented” i.e. the higher the average assessment, the more respondents consider that rehabilitation has been implemented). The results clearly show that respondents most of all indicate building/rehabilitation of gas transmission system in the first place followed by school repairs/ equipment and building water supply systems. Outdoor lighting and road building/rehabilitation got equal score and both are more or less positive. Infrastructure rehabilitation process concerned the repairs and equipment of kindergartens and medical establishments in the least.

Graph №H1: Has each sphere of infrastructure been restored/ rehabilitated in Kvemo Kartli region (means on a three-point scale: 3- “fully implemented”, 1 – “not implemented”)



Graph №H2 shows the improvement of infrastructure by districts. As it can be seen from results, infrastructure has been improved mostly in Kvemo Kartli regional center – Rustavi and in the least – Marneuli and Tsalka. Respondents from Rustavi often mention gas transmission, outdoor lighting and water supply system rehabilitation. Rehabilitation of roads is less indicated by Gardabani and Marneuli population. Gas transmission is less noted in Tsalka, Dmanisi and Marneuli districts. Rehabilitation of water supply systems has not been implemented in Marneuli, Tetrtskharo and Tsalka districts. Repairs/ rehabilitation of schools are most frequently indicated by Rustavi, Dmanisi and Tetrtskharo population. Repairs/ equipment of kindergartens have not been implemented in Tsalka, Marneuli, Gardabani and Bolnisi districts. Repairs of medical facilities have been fully implemented in Rustavi and partially in Tetrtskharo. Rehabilitation of outdoor lighting has not been implemented in Tsalka, Marneuli and Gardabani.

Graph №H2: Has each sphere of infrastructure been restored/ rehabilitated in Kvemo Kartli region (means by districts on a three-point scale: the higher the indicator, the more the infrastructure rehabilitation has been implemented)



Within the scope of the research we have also examined the impact of this or that infrastructure restoration/ rehabilitation projects on Kvemo Kartli population. We presented seven infrastructure restoration/ rehabilitation projects to respondents who were to say whether the implementation of each project resulted in the employment of their family members, starting small/medium business, expanding their businesses or whether they have started using educational institutions or medical facilities.

The research results clearly show that the project mentioned above has had no serious impact on the households in Kvemo Kartli population (see Table №H1).

Table №H1: What was the impact of infrastructure restoration/rehabilitation on the social-economic conditions of your family? (Shown in %)

	Road building/repairs	Gas transmission	Building/repairs of water supply systems	School repairs/equipment	Repairs/equipment of kindergartens	Repairs/equipment of medical facilities	Outdoor lighting
No direct impact	98.7%	99.7%	99.9%	99.8%	99.6%	98.6%	99.5%

In order to study at least the minimum impact of the above projects, it is necessary to look at the indicators¹⁶. Road building/ repairs had a direct impact on 67 households. Most frequently, families (in total 43 cases) name the employment of one of their family members in the rehabilitation of roads (building/ repairs). As a result of road building/ repairs some of the members from three households had been employed. In this case, long lasting economic effect (which is stable employment) is more difficult to achieve and it only concerned three families. Ten households started/developed their small/medium businesses. Six families increased their incomes at the expense of developing the businesses existing before the improvement of the infrastructure. Rehabilitation of roads afforded some families' with the access to education, for instance, one household started to use a kindergarten and in three families, school education level rose since they were able to intensively involve their children in the process of education. One family mentions the improvement of medical service via a better access to medical facilities in the area.

Gas transmission had less impact in terms of providing jobs or other social benefits. Only a member of one family was involved in the gas transmission system expansion and rehabilitation, and the members of three families were employed after that. On one occasion, a family developed the business and two families increased their income by expanding their businesses after the repair of gas transmission system. One family indicates the rise in the school education level. In this case gas transmission might have had a direct impact on the improvement of housing and school conditions. According to two families, gas transmission rehabilitation has led to the improvement of medical service.

Building/ repairs of water supply systems had an effect only on four families: one member has been employed and three families developed small/medium businesses. In the process of school repairs and equipment, members of three households in Kvemo Kartli region were given jobs, and 2 members were employed after school repairs and equipment. On one occasion a family started small/medium business and in 1 family they improved the level of education.

Kindergartens' repairs and equipment have had an immediate effect on nine households. Two family members were employed in the process of the rehabilitation, one member from two households were employed at the following stage. After kindergartens' rehabilitation, five households started using them.

Improvement of outdoor lighting affected 69 families. 31 indicate that after the improvement of outdoor lighting their family income increased due to the development of the existing business. In this case outdoor lighting is related to security, which had an impact on business development. A member from three families was employed during the rehabilitation process and three others after the rehabilitation. Repairs and equipment of medical facilities mainly affect the quality of service of these institutions. In this case, 15 families under the survey mention the improvement of medical services for them and their family members. During the rehabilitation process of medical facilities, some members in three households were employed.

Despite the fact, that the infrastructure rehabilitation has not had any tangible effect on social and economic situation of Kvemo Kartli households, the survey still gives a positive picture. According to the previous question, rehabilitation works did not concern all districts or did partially. Consequently, we

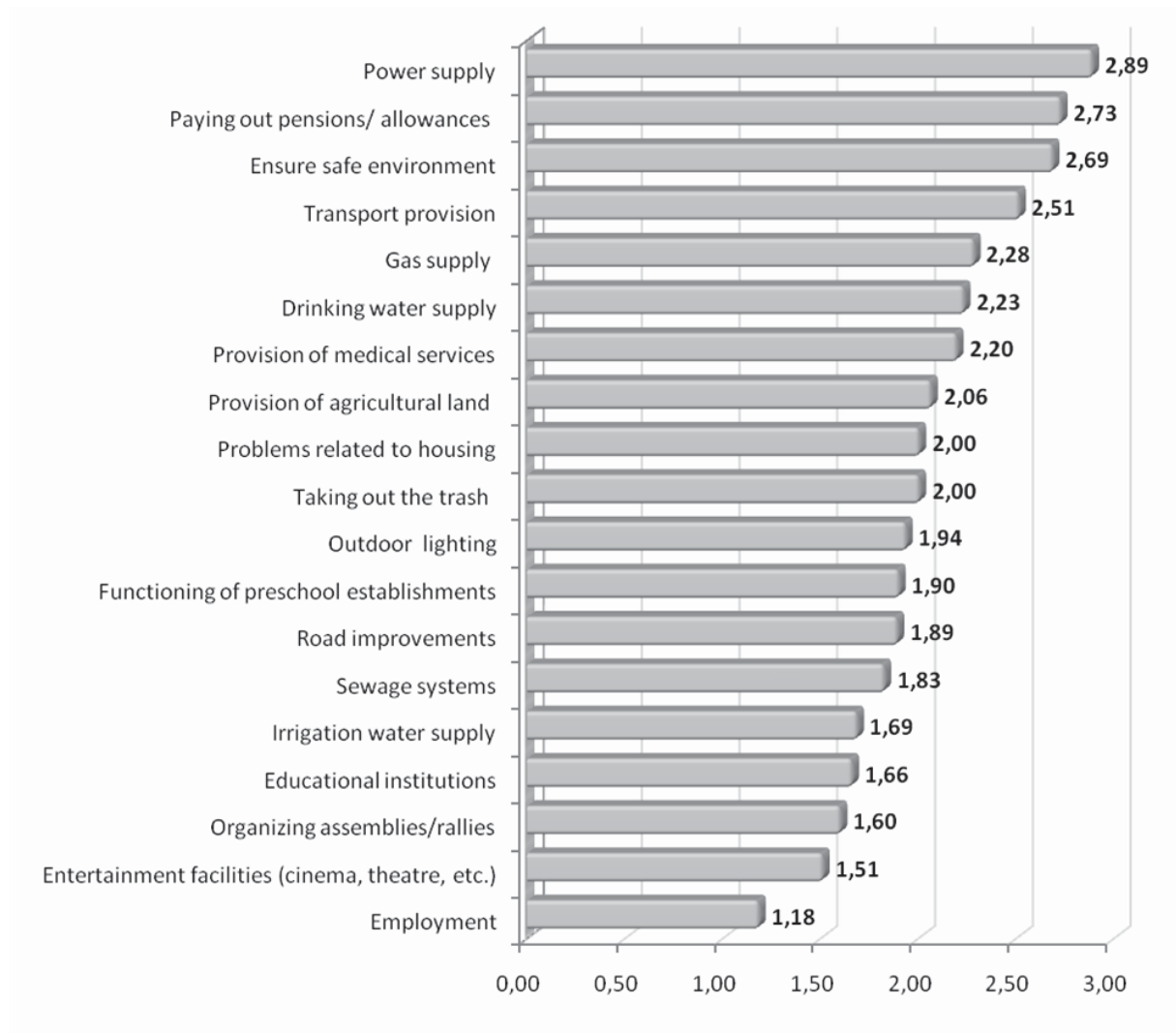
¹⁶ Percentage of families that have been directly affected by infrastructure improvement is so small that it is necessary to manipulate only with absolute indicators.

can assume that if infrastructure development process continues it will have a positive effect on economic and social characteristics of Kvemo Kartli population.

Problematic issues of Kvemo Kartli region

The respondents in Kvemo Kartli region were given 19 different issues (concerning infrastructure, educational and medical institutions, social and political problems) which they were to assess how problematic they were (in their own settlements) on a three-point scale (with 3 - meaning the issue is fully settled, 2- it is settled but needs minor improvement and 1- totally unsettled, needs considerable improvement). Graph №H3 shows the means of problem assessment of each factor¹⁷.

Graph №H3: Means of assessment of different issues being problematic for Kvemo Kartli population given on a three-point scale (the higher the assessment of the factor, the better it is settled)

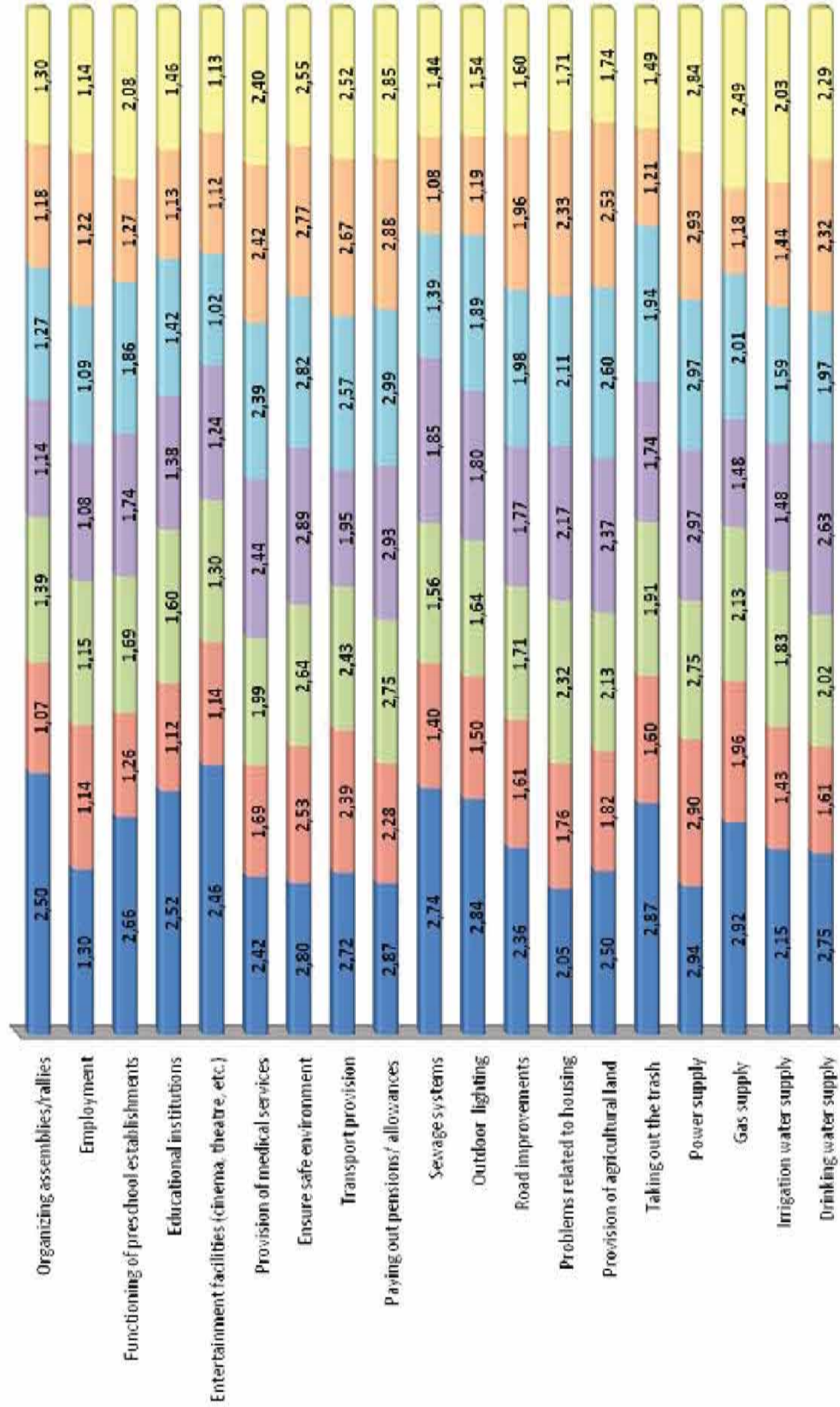


¹⁷ Hereby we need to take into account that the higher the average indicator of the assessment, the better the problem is settled in Kvemo Kartli region

As is seen from research results, the most smoothly functioning areas in Kvemo Kartli region are power supply, pension/allowance payments, safe environment and transport facilities. In all surveys conducted throughout Georgia, employment is named as number one problem for the population. Kvemo Kartli region is no exception and it is named as the most unsettled problem by the population. The next severe problem is the lack of entertainment facilities (cinema, theatre, etc.), organizing assemblies/rallies, educational institutions and irrigation water supply. It is important to consider each issue in district perspective (see graph N H14).

Employment is a severe problem in all districts, however, compared to other districts; it is being assessed as less problematic for the urban center of Kvemo Kartli region – Rustavi. Assembly/rally organization is problematic in all districts, except Rustavi, where on the population's assessment, this problem is settled but needs a little improvement. The work of pre-school establishments (kindergartens, crèches) is less problematic for Rustavi and Gardabani and is most problematic for Tsalka and Marneuli districts. Functioning of entertainment centers (cinemas, theatres) is normal in Kvemo Kartli urban center while the majority of respondents in other districts point to the need of settling the issue (especially in Tetrtskharo district). Provision of medical services is more or less settled in Kvemo Kartli region. However, two districts deserve attention (Marneuli and Bolnisi), where most of the population complains about medical services. Secure environment, compared to other factors, has a relatively positive assessment; however, it is perceived as being a little problematic by Marneuli, Gardabani and Bolnisi district population. Transport issues are more or less settled in Kvemo Kartli regions, but Dmanisi population complains more than in other districts about transport functioning. Payment of pensions and allowances is a fully settled issue for the whole Kvemo Kartli region, but some minor problems can still be observed in Marneuli district. One of the most problematic among infrastructural issues is the work of sewage system which is unsettled in all districts but Rustavi (the situation is especially tough in Tsalka district). As the research has shown, Kvemo Kartli districts have the problem of outdoor lighting. This does not concern Rustavi, where during the qualitative survey the population even expressed their worries about the government paying excessive attention to outdoor lighting. Despite the fact, that roads have significantly been improved in Kvemo Kartli region, the respondents (except in Rustavi) still consider the need of improvement. Presumably, Kvemo Kartli population in this case speaks about the roads within the villages and towns. Problems related to housing are relatively severe for Marneuli and Gardabani population, while in other districts it is not considered a problem. Kvemo Kartli population does not complain about the lack of agricultural land, except in Marneuli and Gardabani districts. The problem of taking out the trash is fully settled in Rustavi but other districts do complain about it (especially in Gardabani and Marneuli). Power supply is the issue that is fully settled in all Kvemo Kartli districts (barring some minor problems in Bolnisi district). Gas supply is fully settled in Rustavi, but minor problems are observed in Gardabani, Bolnisi and Tetrtskharo. However, in Tsalka, Dmanisi and Marneuli the population complains about the lack (or malfunctioning) of gas transmission system. Irrigation water supply is a relevant issue for all districts (relatively satisfied are Gardabani and Bolnisi inhabitants). The lack of drinking water supply (or malfunctioning) is the biggest concern of Marneuli and Tetrtskharo district population.

Graph NoH4 : Average indicators in the assessment of problematic issues by Kverno Kartli population (the higher assessment the factor gets, the more unsettled the issue is)



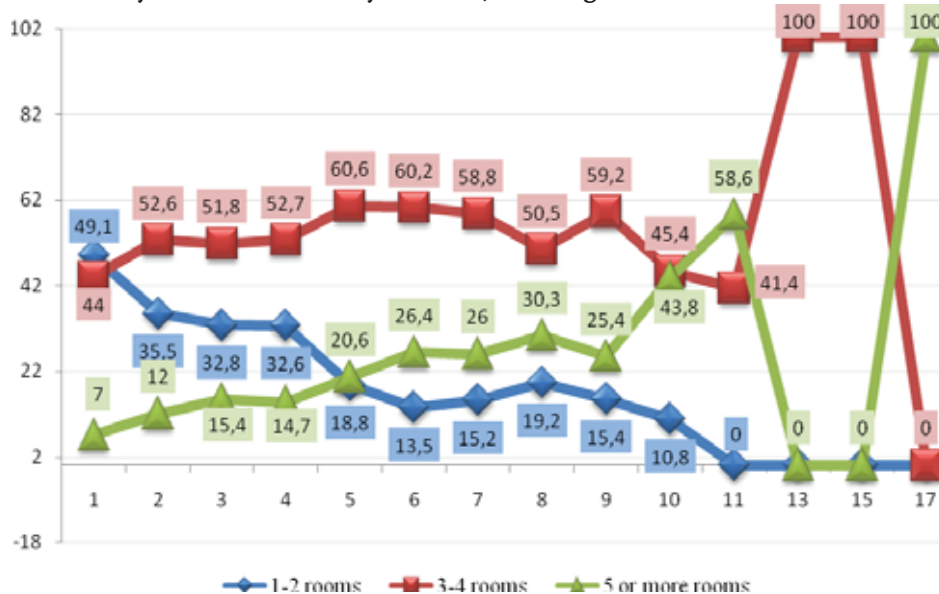
Housing Conditions

Majority of households questioned in Kvemo Kartli responded that they were the flat owners themselves (91.1% of households own the flat). Among districts, the exception is Tsalka, where 63.4% of respondents own the flats. About a third (30.8%) of respondents in Tsalka district were given the flats for temporary use free of charge by the flat owner who was not their relative. In total, 2.4% of households in Kvemo Kartli region were given the flats for free (by non relatives), and 2.8% were given flats free by relatives. There are only a few cases of renting (1.8%), mortgaging (0.3%) and arbitrary occupation (0.2%) of abandoned flats in Kvemo Kartli region. According to ethnicity, the flat owners most often happen to be ethnic Azeri households (94.2%) in Kvemo Kartli region, followed by ethnic Armenians (93.5%). 88.8% of ethnic Georgians in Kvemo Kartli have flats in their ownership.

Majority of households under this survey in Kvemo Kartli region (95.2%) consists of only one family.¹⁸ In 3.6% of households there also live relatives or friends. Similar cases to above are more frequent in Bolnisi district (9.6%) than in other districts.

During the survey we were interested in how many rooms the households in Kvemo Kartli owned (apart from kitchen, bathroom and utility room). More than half of the families (54.2%) have three and four-room flats. 28.7% of households live in one and two-room flats. 17.1% of households under the survey have five and more rooms. It is important to look at these data with regard to the family size. As Graph №H5 shows, mainly small size families live in one and two-room flats and along with the growth of family size, there is more number of rooms. Despite the above, there are exceptions too. For instance, one-fifth of families (20.5%) with 5 and more members live in one or two-room flats and 14.8% of families with one or two members live in five and more rooms. According to districts, in Tetrtskharo (30.2%) and Marneuli (25.2%) families have 5 or more rooms while more than a third (36.7%) of Rustavi families live in one and two-room flats.

Graph №H5: How many rooms are there in your flat? (Percentage data in relation to the size of the family)



¹⁸ In this case it is noteworthy that there are mostly extended families in Kvemo Kartli region (with maximum 17 members). Due to cultural specificity, the respondents participating in this survey, considered this as one family.

Apart from number of rooms, the total floor space of flats is also important. As can be seen from the research data (table № H1), the housing space of one- third (33.1%) of population is about 50 square meters. More than half of Rustavi population (53.9%) lives in about 50 square meters, while only 16% in Tetritskharo and Marneuli live in the space of the above size. In this case, we should certainly take into account that in Rustavi there are mostly multi-storey buildings, while in districts there are more private houses. Similar to the number of rooms, along with the growing size of a family, the floor space increases too (see table № H2). However, in this case too there are some exceptions, when big families live in the small space or vice versa.

Table №H2: What is the total floor space of your rooms? (% indicators according to family size)

	1 member	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	15	17 member	total
Up to 50 sq.m.	52.2	40.7	39.9	36.6	23.8	16.9	16.4	16.7	21.5	0	0	0	0	0	33.1
Up to 50-69 sq.m.	15.6	19.1	20.6	19.9	18.6	19.7	19.1	24.0	27.5	25.5	0	100.0	0	0	19.4
Up to 70-99 sq.m	13.2	17.5	16.3	17.9	21.2	25.9	24.3	26.2	13.4	18.1	17.3		100.0		19.1
100 sq.m and more	6.0	10.4	12.4	14.9	22.4	22.8	25.9	17.1	32.8	35.8	82.7	0	0	100.0	16.0
Refused to answer	1.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
Difficult to answer	11.5	12.0	10.6	10.5	13.8	14.6	14.2	15.2	4.7	20.6	0	0	0	0	12.1

To determine the living conditions of Kvemo Kartli population, the respondents were to assess their flats according to 11 criteria related to their living condition problems. Table №H3 shows what percentage has this or that problem.

Table №H3: What part of Kvemo Kartli population has the problems related to their living conditions (shown in %)

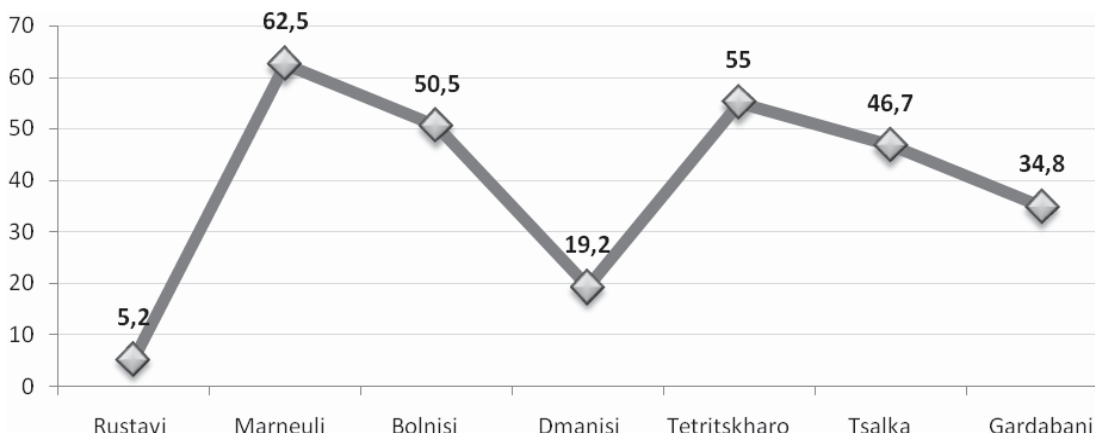
List of problems related to housing	% of households having problems
Flat needs repairs	71.6
No conditions for water heating or washing	41.9
Cannot heat the flat	41.4
There is a problem of drinking water in the flat	35.8
There is not enough space for living	30.6
The building is failing	23.1
The flat is not suitable for living	20.3
The documentation of the house/flat is not in order	12.7
Might be asked to vacate the flat	5.6
Have difficulties paying the rent	4.8
The flat has no electric mains	3.6

As we can see from the results of the survey, more than two-thirds of the population has the need of repairs in their flats. The problem of repairs is more severe in villages than in towns (64.1% of urban population complains about the problem while this figure in rural population is 76.4%). According to districts, accommodation in need of repairs is more problematic in Dmanisi, Tetrtskharo and Gardabani and least problematic in Rustavi.

Next serious problem related to housing is water heating and washing. The problem in the first place is connected with malfunctioning of infrastructure. Consequently, practicing proper hygiene is the problem for 79% of rural population, while this indicator in towns is only 21%. The problem of water heating and washing is particularly severe in Tsalka district (85% points out having the above problem in their households), followed by Dmanisi (64.1%) and Bolnisi (64.2%) districts. Only 16.5% complains about water heating and washing problems in Rustavi.

41.4% of Kvemo Kartli population is concerned about the problem of heating the living space which ranks third among problems. Difference is negligible, but it can still be said that this is more problematic for rural population. Most often the problem is mentioned by Bolnisi population (70.2%) and Gardabani (47.3%). Tsalka population (12.2%) is concerned about the above problem in the least. The data on drinking water problems are alarming, since one- third of Kvemo Kartli population is affected by this problem. Supplying with clean drinking water will in the first place reflect on the health state of the population. Unclean and improperly stored water causes many diseases. Besides, carrying water from other places in large quantities significantly affects people’s health, especially women’s (and it is important to stress the fact, since according to the survey data, women are more intensively involved in supplying families with water). Drinking water problem in the first place is caused by poor infrastructure. That is why, 14.9% of urban population have drinking water problem, while this figure in rural areas is 49.3%. It is important to look at the data according to districts (see Graph №H6). Drinking water is the most severe problem in Marneuli district (62.5%), followed by Tetrtskharo (55%), Bolnisi (50.5%), Tsalka (46.7%) and Gardabani (34.8%). Majority of the respondent families are content with drinking water in Dmanisi and Rustavi. 19.2% of households in Dmanisi and 5.2% in Rustavi have the problem of drinking water. These data are important and the strategy of water supply system improvement should be based on the above data.

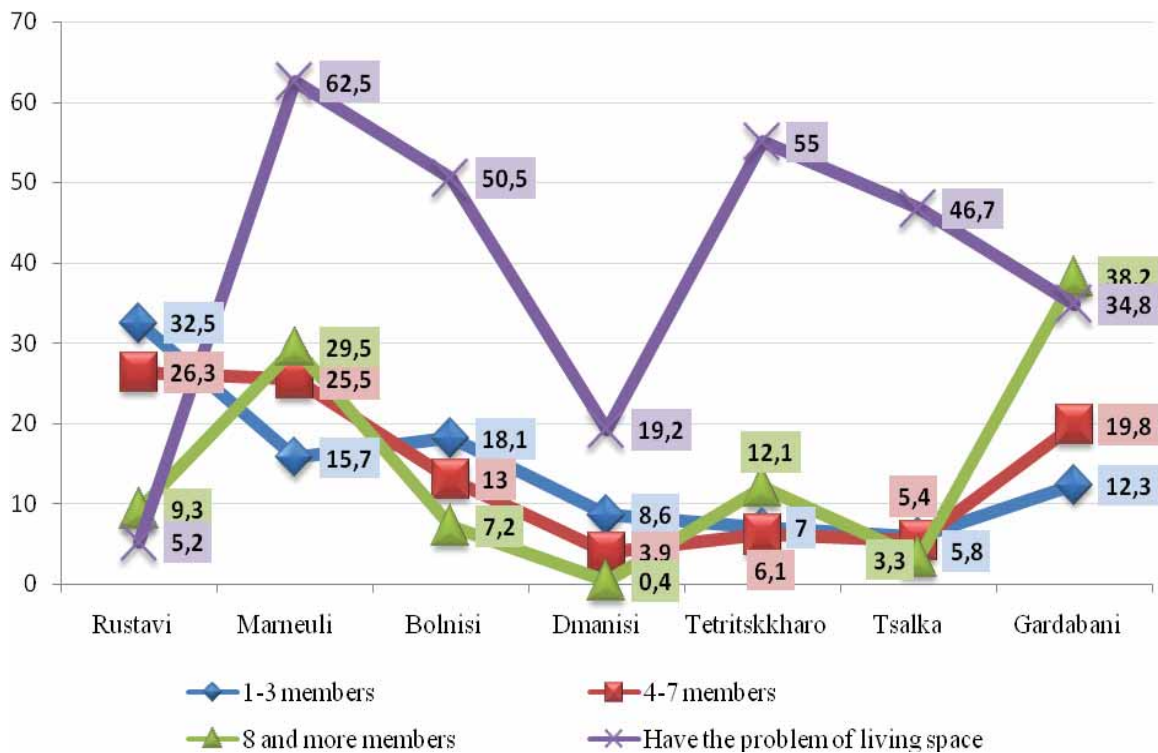
Graph №H6: Household has drinking water problem (shown in percentage by regions)



For almost one-third of Kvemo Kartli population suffer from the lack of floor space. Half of the families (52.2%) having mentioned the problem live in one- or two-room flats and 83.4% of these families consist of more than 3 members. 41.8 % of families living in three or four room flats also complain about the lack of the living space. Only in this case, the family consists of 4 or more members. Households with 5 and more rooms almost do not complain about the problem despite the family size (only 6% mentions it). The same trend can be observed regarding the family size in relation to the living space. More than half (51.9%) of the respondents who mention the lack of the living space, mainly live in about 50 square meters, while their families consist of 3 to 9 members. Most severely this problem is perceived in Tsalka district, where 48.9% of the population complains about it.

Graph №H7 shows how the family size and living space are related to each other according to districts. Only 5.2% of households in Rustavi have the problem of living space. This is due to the fact that most of the families there are small (1 – 3 members). About one- third of families living in Marneuli consist of 8 and more members and that is why 62.5% of families complain about the insufficient living space. In Gardabani there are mostly large families (38.2% of households have 8 and more members). Tsalka, Tetrtskhara and Bolnisi, where there are fewer large families are also an exception, however, they do not have sufficient living space either.

Graph №H7: Family size according to districts and the problem of living space (shown in percentage by regions)



The data, according to which about a quarter (23.1%) of flats in Kvemo Kartli households are unfit for living, are alarming. This predominantly is true of rural areas (26.9% in villages, 17.3% -in towns). Unfit buildings are most frequently indicated in Gardabani (48.3%) and Tetrtskhara (44%) districts compared

to other Kvemo Kartli districts. In Dmanisi 29.2% of respondents live in unfit buildings, in Tsalka - 18.7%, and in Marneuli – 16.9%. One-fifth (20.3%) of Kvemo Kartli households has a similar situation claiming that the space is not suitable for living. In this case, this complaint is related to the failing state of buildings and it is especially observed in Gardabani and Tetritskharo districts.

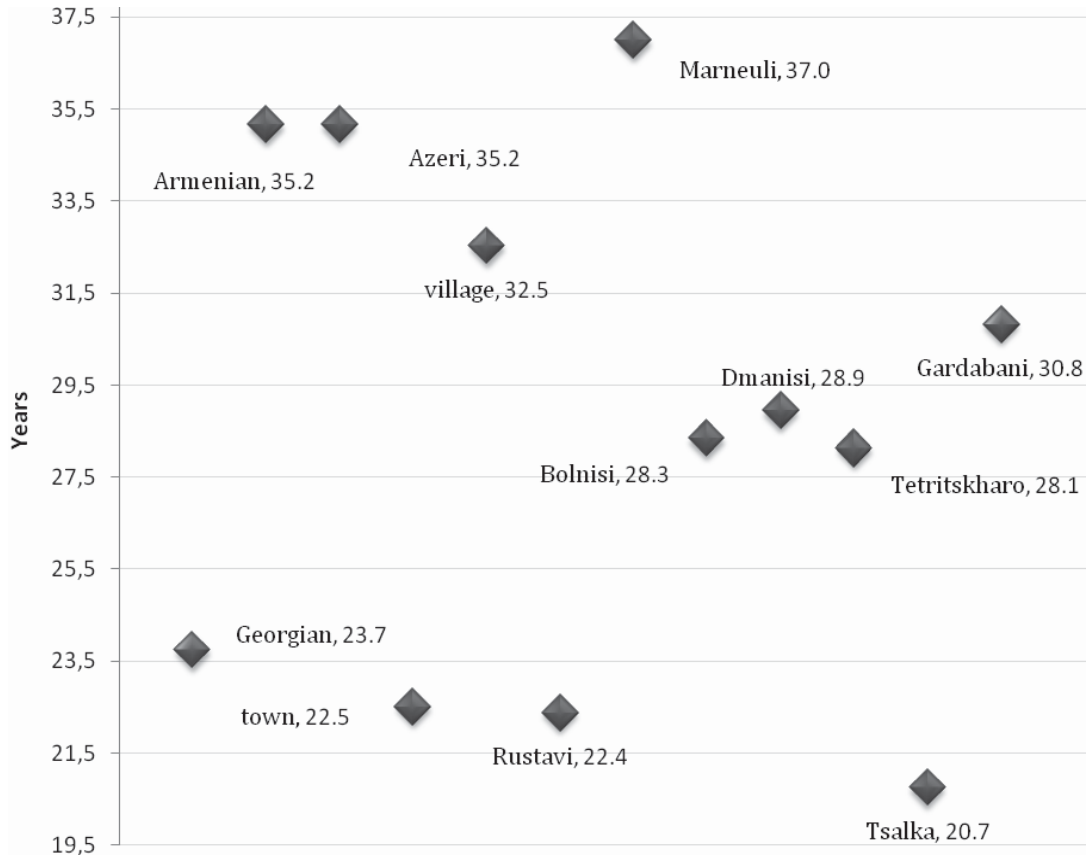
Documentation related to housing is a problem for a small part of families. However, this is a problem for quite a few families in Tetritskharo (46.5%) and Tsalka (40.7%) districts, as well as for one-fifth (19.6%) of Gardabani families.

Those families who do not own the flats are facing two problems – paying the rent and the expectation that the flat owner would require to vacate the lodging. Payment of the rent is mainly the problem for Marneuli (11.2%) and Rustavi (5.4%) families. As mentioned above, almost one-third of families in Tsalka district are temporarily using the lodging on the owner's permission, and that is why 28.4% of families living in this district are concerned that the owners might require to vacate the lodging. In other districts this indicator is about 5%.

The problem of power supply is negligible in Kvemo Kartli region and only 3.6% of families are concerned about it. This is no severe problem for any particular district; however, it is more intensive in Bolnisi district (6.9% is concerned about the problem of power supply).

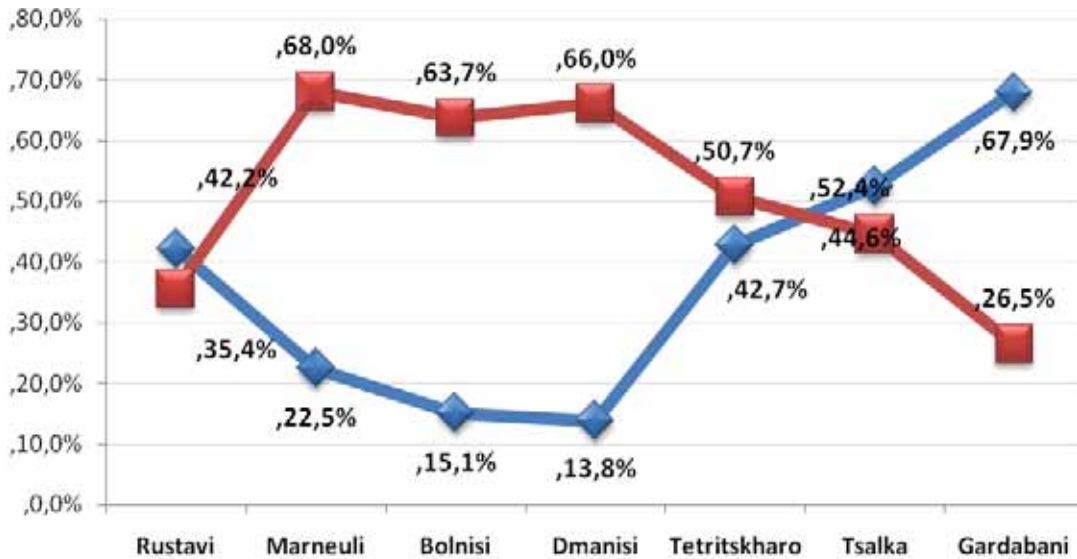
While studying the housing problems, we tried to find out how long the households have had their present residence. The answers were classified into four groups: 1. Five years; 2. Six to 20 years; 3. 21 to 40 years and 4. Longer than 41 years. The results show that migration among Kvemo Kartli population is low, in other words, more than half (57.1%) of the households have lived in their present place of residence for over 21 years, 11.7% of families have changed their place of residence in the past 5 years. It is interesting to look at these data according to districts and ethnicity. Graph №H8 reflects the means of years Marneuli households have lived in one place of residence (in this case the average length of time of living in the same place of residence is 37 years). Population of Armenian and Azeri origin have lived in the same place of residence the longest time (among Georgians, the average length of time living in the same place of residence is 23.7 years, while this indicator for Azeri and Armenian dwellers is 35.2 years. This can be explained by two reasons, one of which is the resettlement of the population from earthquake and landslide zones to Kvemo Kartli. This is particularly clearly seen on the example of Tsalka, where the indicator of living in the same place of residence per inhabitant is the lowest). The other reason is that ethnic minorities live in compact settlements and represent more or less closed communities. Thus, it is not desirable for them to change the place of residence. Besides, ethnic minorities mainly live in rural settlements, while migration is more characteristic of urban type settlements.

Graph №H8: How long have you lived in the present place of residence? Means according to number of years by nationalities, districts and the types of settlement)



Despite the fact that the flats in Kvemo Kartli are problematic, very small number of inhabitants is planning to change their place of residence in the nearest six months (1.4% or only 41 households). The main part is not going to change their place of residence as they are satisfied with their present living conditions (48.4% of households). For more than a half (37.3%) of Kvemo Kartli population the existing conditions are unsatisfactory, however, they do not expect to change their living conditions in the nearest six months. Graph №H9 reflects the reasons why the households have no intention to change the place of residence in the nearest six months by districts. Those households that frequently face the problems of various infrastructural or housing characters indicate having no hope of improving conditions. The examples of the above are Gardabani and Tsalka, where the inhabitants complain about the lack of living space, water heating and washing problems. Two-thirds of Marneuli, Bolnisi and Dmanisi population are satisfied with their conditions. Rustavi is an exception here, since despite the fact that there are fewer housing problems of various types, households are quite dissatisfied with their living conditions; although having no hope for changes.

Graph №H9: Why aren't you going to change the place of residence in the nearest 6 months (shown in % by districts)



◆ Cannot afford to improve conditions ■ In general satisfied with the existing conditions

41 families are thinking of changing their place of residence in the nearest six months, out of them, 28 are Georgian, 10 –Azeri, and 3 –Armenian. Out of 41 households that are going to change the place of residence, almost half (41.5%) intend to stay in the same settlement (12 families are Georgian, 3- Azeri and 2 - Armenian). Six families intend to go abroad, among them 3 Azeri families are going to move to Azerbaijan, one Georgian family – to Turkey and one to Armenia, and one Armenian family –to Germany. The rest of the families are going to move either to other settlements of Kvemo Kartli or another region of Georgia.

Education

Summary

Educational system in Georgia has undergone significant changes lately. Management and financial models have been changed, increased involvement of international donors in the reorganization of the educational systems aiming to achieve the level of Georgian educational system which will lead it to international integration.

For about 13 % of Georgia's population, Georgian is not a native language. A big part of Azeri and Armenian population living in Kvemo Kartli region have poor command of Georgian language which impedes their integration into Georgian society and creates barriers in the accessibility of education. The given research provides information about the level of education and awareness about various programs, the existing problems in the accessibility to education, etc., of KvemoKartli population.

The involvement of pre-school age children in the pre-school educational institutions in Kvemo Kartli region is as low as less than one-fifth of the population. The involvement of children in the pre-school educational institutions in urban settlements is higher than in villages. In district perspective, children's integration into educational organizations is mostly observed in Rustavi and Dmanisi. Two main reasons that pre-school children are not involved in educational institutions have been revealed: the absence of educational institutions and financial barriers. There is higher concern about the absence of pre-school educational institutions in Tsalka and Bolnisi districts, while this is the least important barrier in Rustavi and Gardabani districts. Financial barrier for the inclusion into pre-school educational institutions is most significantly revealed in Gardabani, Rustavi and Tetrtskharo. Majority of children involved in pre-school educational institutions get education in Georgian language for the following two reasons: a) there are no kindergartens in ethnic minorities' languages and b) families are motivated that their children learn the state language.

4.2% of Kvemo Kartli population is not involved in school education and it is not particularly characteristic of any district. Most families do not explain why their children gave up studies. Among the given reasons, the most common explanation is the decision made by adolescents themselves, illness and the absence of documentation. We come across the facts of dropouts due to marriage which concerns only girls. The indicator of dropouts is higher in Azeri population than in other ethnic group which speaks for the fact that the assumption made at the beginning stage of the research proves to be partly true (that girls give up school because of marriage in Azeri families). A quarter of the respondents have no problems related to education. Half of the problems regarding school education are related to lack of financial resources (families cannot afford to buy school materials). For 5.6% the problem is the distant location of a school which is revealed mostly in Tetrtskharo, Dmanisi and Gardabani districts.

The number of those with higher education is lower in Kvemo Kartli than the percentage of graduates in the whole Georgia. The share of those with secondary education in Georgia is lower than in Kvemo Kartli. Regarding higher education, the trend is opposite – the share of those with higher education throughout Georgia exceeds the same indicator obtained in Kvemo Kartli (UNICEF, 2011, Welfare Monitoring Survey). The absolute majority of respondents receives/ has received the higher education in Georgia (namely, in Tbilisi). However there are some minor occasions when the representatives of ethnic minorities go to their native country or Russia for higher education. One of the reasons of inaccessibility of the higher education is finances which also correlate with the far distance of the institutions (the need for travelling fare), tuition fee, and transport costs.

In addition to insufficient financial resources that demotivate, individuals often refused to receive education on their own accord. As for the reluctance to get education, in this case language barrier and cultural peculiarities are often an issue, which especially discourages non-Georgian population from being integrated into the space of Georgian statehood.

In relation to ethnic minorities, Georgian educational policy has two main directions: on the one hand, improvement of the knowledge of state language in order to support the integration of ethnic minorities and on the other, protection of minorities' languages and insurance of the availability of education in their native language.

In 2009, Georgian government developed the national concept of tolerance and integration which has the following directions in the improvement of education of ethnic minorities: accessibility of pre-school,

secondary and higher education for ethnic minorities, enhancement of the level of state language mastery among ethnic minorities, accessibility to the programs of adult education and vocational education.

The survey results show that majority of ethnic minority respondents at this stage declare the necessity of Georgian language knowledge (since the language barrier correlates with employment and consequently improvement of economic state). As for learning the state language, ethnic minorities have no problem and the level of satisfaction in this respect is high. However, we cannot say the same about the involvement in educational programs, where the important barrier of being involved in this or that program is reluctance. It could be said that the issue of insufficient financial resources (which the respondents pointed out to be an important issue to access pre-school, secondary and higher education) could have been more or less resolved in case of their involvement in various educational programs. Possibly, respondents indicate lack of financial resources to justify their own “inactivity” (as the manifestation of their reluctance of inclusion into Georgian society).

As for the facts of discrimination, in terms of access to education, the research data have revealed the following: There are only a few facts of discrimination among Kvemo Kartli region representatives at any educational level. Besides, it is noteworthy, that among ethnic minorities, especially Azeri population, there are some gender stereotypes giving a priority to boys’ in receiving education.

Apart from active participation in educational programs for social integration of Kvemo Kartli population (especially of ethnic minorities), their involvement in cultural events is also very important.

As regards educational programs, the survey results have once again revealed the problem of awareness: more than half (52.5%) of respondents have never heard of any of the educational programs. Besides, part of the respondents cannot see the need for this or that program and has no desire to participate in it. But given the circumstances of such low level of awareness, unwillingness to participate in various programs of “inactive” population is quite logical.

The research has shown that there is the lack of educational and cultural establishments in the region. On the one hand, the above fact is related to hard economic situation (lack of financial resources and cultural establishments) due to which citizens lose interest towards cultural life and on the other, the nihilistic attitude of respondents (“inactiveness”) and the reluctance of integration in the society, serve the basis for neglecting cultural life of the region.

Pre-school education

In compliance with the law “On General Education” that became effective in 2004, the level of kindergarten development depends entirely on the municipality. Since 2006, kindergartens under the Ministry of Education have become subordinate to self-government bodies.

The research has shown that pre-school educational programs are not being properly implemented that results in the low level of involvement of pre-school children in the educational process. The following impeding factors in the above circumstances are:

- ✓ Social factor – low economic capability of the population, language barrier;
- ✓ Structural factor – lack of kindergartens, distant location (especially in villages and mountainous areas).

Among the factors, the most important and considerable one is the structural problem, since according to the data, in spite of the poor financial conditions, parents are still willing to pay a certain fee for their children’s pre-school education.

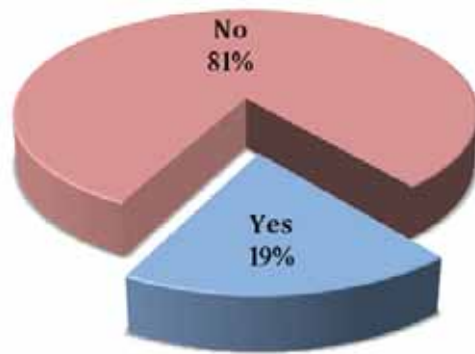
Table №M1 shows the percentage breakdown of children under 7 in Kvemo Kartli region.

Table №M1: Number of children under 7 in Kvemo Kartli region (shown in %)

Age	%
7	1.3%
6	12.5%
5	14.9%
6	16.3%
3	15.8%
2	13.0%
1	14.2%
0	12.0%

As it turned out, among the vast majority of questioned households (81.2%) , children under 7 are not being involved in any kind of organized teaching or educational program for minors (kindergarten or some similar establishment) (see graph N M1).

Graph №M1: Is a child under 7 years involved in any kind of organized teaching or educational program for minors (kindergarten or some similar establishment) (% indicators of households)



Out of children (18.8%) involved in pre-school educational program, 60.2% are girls, and 39.8% - boys.

As a result of analyzing the data according to districts, it was revealed that the highest share of children fewer than 7 involved in educational establishments is in Rustavi (36.2%) and Dmanisi (31.6%) (See Table N M2). Besides, urban population as compared to rural uses the services of pre-school education more (33.8% of children in town households are involved in organized teaching, while in villages this indicator is only 10.3%).

Table №M2: Is a child involved in any kind of organized teaching...? (Shown in % by districts)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani
Yes	36.2	7.7	17.9	31.6	11.2	4.1	17.5
No	63.8	92.3	82.1	68.4	88.8	95.9	82.5

Although the non-involvement of a certain part of children under 7 in organized teaching or other educational program has an objective basis – 39.6% of children belonging to this group are not of pre-school age but are pupils.

Two main reasons for which pre-school age children cannot use the services of the correspondent institution have been distinguished: the absence of kindergartens in the area/ problem of distant location (30.8% of respondents) and financial inaccessibility (18.4%) (See Table N M3).

Table №M3: reasons for which children under 7 are not involved in any kind of organized teaching (shown in %)

A child is not of a pre-school age	39.6
A child has health problems	1.0
A child has no clothes to wear	0.5
There is no kindergarten in our area / kindergarten is in a far distance	30.8
Cannot afford to pay the fee/ have no financial resources	18.4
A member of the family takes care of a child/children	3.2
We have a person who can take care of a child/children	0.2
There is no kindergarten available suitable for the age of a child	0.7
We are dissatisfied with the quality	0.8
We are on the waiting list	0.1
Pre-school education is not necessary	0.4
Difficult to answer	4.3

Some small differences have been revealed between districts, namely: financial inaccessibility for not using kindergartens is the reason mostly indicated in Gardabani (45%), Tetrtskharo (19.5%) and Rustavi (19.3%). No one has mentioned the absence / distant location of kindergartens in Rustavi, and in Gardabani the above reason has a negligible share. Contrary to that, the same indicators are very high in other districts, especially in Tsalka (70.9%) and Bolnisi (61.9%) (See Table N M4).

Table №M4: the reasons for which children fewer than 7 are not involved in any kind of organized teaching (shown in % by districts)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani
A child is not of a pre-school age	59.0	33.9	27.9	29.3	34.8	15.3	45.6
A child has health problems	2.4	1.3	0.0	2.1	0.8	2.1	0.0
A child has no clothes to wear	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
There is no kindergarten in our area / kindergarten is in a far distance	0.0	51.9	61.9	49.3	37.3	70.9	4.0
Cannot afford to pay the fee/ have no financial means	19.3	0.7	3.7	0.0	19.5	6.6	45.0
A member of the family takes care of a child/children	7.2	5.1	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
We have a person who can take care of a child/children	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
There is no kindergarten available suitable for the age of a child	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.8	0.0
We are dissatisfied with the quality	2.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.5
We are on the waiting list	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Pre-school education is not necessary	1.2	0.7	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Difficult to answer	6.0	5.2	2.8	17.3	5.1	3.6	2.0

The above mentioned factor (lack of financial resources) determines the use of state kindergartens by absolute majority of those using pre-school services. Only 2.1% indicates using private kindergartens.

It should be noted that the vast majority of the respondents using pre-school services, are either very much or more or less satisfied with them (the share of those that are very much satisfied is 31%) (See Table N M5). Besides, the respondents of this group, (75.8%) mainly use the nearby kindergartens.

Table №M5: In general, how much are you satisfied with the kindergarten your child goes to? (Shown in %)

Very satisfied	31.0
More or less satisfied	44.9
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	12.2
More or less dissatisfied	2.1
Very much dissatisfied	4.8
Difficult to answer	4.9

It should be noted that, the level of satisfaction in district perspective as well as in villages and cities, does not differ essentially. .

According to majority of respondents using pre-school services (60%) they can afford to send their child to kindergarten. 26.1% indicates having no financial resources for using kindergarten. For 14% it was difficult to respond to the question. According to districts, Bolnisi district stood out since only one respondent gave the negative answer, and in Gardabani there is the minimal difference between positive and negative answers (see Table N M6).

Table №M6: Do you have the financial resources to take the child to the kindergarten? (Number of households according to districts shown in sum total %)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	total N	Total %
Yes	30	11	20	11	12	1	14	99	60
No	12	2	1	4	2	1	20	42	26
Difficult to answer	6	0	2	4	1	5	9	27	14
Total	48	13	23	19	15	7	43	168	100

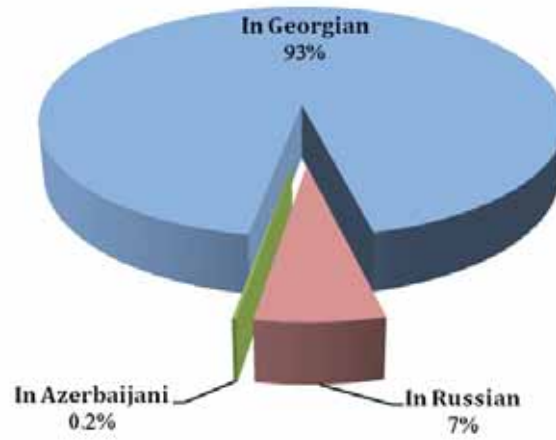
Among respondents pointing to having financial resources for taking their children to kindergarten, 47% indicated their financial situation as “bad”. It seems that the fees in state kindergartens allow families with poor financial means to use the above service (see Table №M7)

Table №M7: Economic situation of families in relation to financial resources for sending a child to pre-school establishment (shown in %)

What is your family's economic situation?	Do you have financial resources to send your child to a kindergarten?		
	Yes	No	Difficult to answer
Very hard	3.8	6.5	20.9
Hard	5.7	16.0	6.6
Bad	46.7	52.6	43.7
Average	42.8	24.9	28.7
Above average	1.0	0	0

Majority of the respondents indicates that children under 7 receive pre-school education mainly in Georgian language. Members from only 0.2% of families in pre-school education study in Azerbaijani and 6.4% in Russian languages. *The above data support the qualitative research data in which non-Georgian population of Kvemo Kartli indicate that a) they send their children to a Georgian kindergarten so that they learn the state language better; b) in most settlements in Kvemo Kartli there is no alternative to Georgian kindergarten (see Graph N M2).*

Graph №M2: In which language does the child receive pre-school education? (Shown in %)



School education

While determining general indicators of educational qualifications, we compared the data of the current survey with the data of the survey conducted and implemented by the Institute of Social Studies and Analysis in July –August 2011 commissioned by UNICEF (Welfare Monitoring Survey), (it is noteworthy that National Statistics Office of Georgia does not have the relevant data). Comparison of the above two surveys makes it clear that the achieved level of education shows similar trends among the population of Kvemo Kartli and the whole Georgia (see Table N M8). The differences are observed between secondary and higher education: the share of those with secondary education in all Georgia is less than in Kvemo Kartli. While with higher education the trend is opposite: the share of those with higher education countrywide exceeds the same indicator in Kvemo Kartli. Besides, it has been revealed that there is a considerable gap between indicators of those with secondary and higher education in Kvemo Kartli (about 30%).

Table №M8: Achieved level of education in Kvemo Kartli region and generally, in Georgia (shown in %)

Achieved level of education	Achieved level of education of Kvemo Kartli population ¹⁹	Achieved level of education of Georgian population ²⁰
Illiterate	1.5	0.6
Incomplete secondary	9.8	8.9
Pupil	2.8	4.5
Secondary	48.9	36.9
Vocational secondary	13.7	19.1
Incomplete higher (dropped out)	1.3	1.5
University student	3.1	2.2
Higher education	18.8	26.1

¹⁹ Research of the situation of Kvemo Kartli population (2011)

²⁰ UNICEF. 2011. Welfare Monitoring Survey

According to the amendment made to the Constitution of Georgia on 27 December, 2006 (#4135 – 6ლ), it is compulsory to receive 9 years of school education (primary and basic). As shown in the survey, in Kvemo Kartli the situation regarding the involvement in school education as compared to pre-school education, is better, although the above fact does not provide the grounds to state that there are no problems in the region in this respect (despite the fact, that 22.9% of respondents indicate having no problems). Similar to kindergartens, we can observe structural and essential problems regarding school education, which in its turn may cause reluctant attitude to learning. Namely:

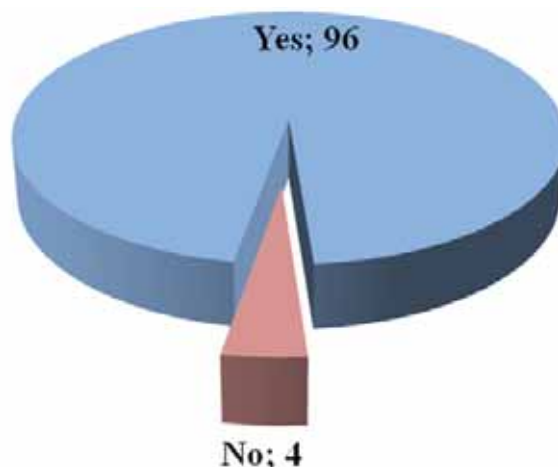
- ✓ Material factor – majority of parents cannot buy school supplies for their child/children
- ✓ An important factor is unsatisfactory quality of teaching
- ✓ Distant location of a school

The above factors influence the “inactivity” of Azeri population in terms of their involvement in school education (which exists anyway, due to, let us say, language barrier).

As for school conditions, despite the circumstances mentioned in the report of European Centre for Minority Issues that district schools (especially non-Georgian) have various problems (such as school buildings being in a poor state, lack of teaching materials and computer technologies, etc.), according to the research data, poor financial resources and distant location of schools are such serious problems for the respondents that all the other listed ones have little share compared to them.

According to research results, school age members of absolute majority of households are involved in school education programs. Despite the above, there is a category of adolescents (4.2%), who do not attend school (see Graph N M3). No essential differences have been revealed in district and town/village perspective.

Graph №M3: Involvement of school age adolescents in educational programs (shown in %)



96.2% of girls and 95.4% of boys are involved in the programs of school education. (See Table N M9). At the stage of qualitative survey, representatives of local authorities and non-governmental organizations mentioned that girls from Azeri families often drop out of school, mainly due to early marriages. Despite the fact that proportionally, girls are more involved in school education process than boys, studying the reasons of non-involvement in schools clearly shows that only girls drop out of school

due to marriage (this reason is given in 9.5% of cases of dropouts). We should note hereby that in more than one- third of cases where girls drop out of school, families refuse to explain the reason for the above, which is presumably due to the impact of cultural background.

Table №M9: Involvement of school age adolescents in educational school programs (% data according to gender)

	Female	Male	Total
Yes	96.2	95.4	95.8
No	3.8	4.6	4.2

In terms of ethnicity, it is clearly seen that Azeri are relatively less involved in school education than Georgians and Armenians (see Table N M 10).

Table №M10: Involvement of school age adolescents in educational school programs (% data according to ethnicity)

	Georgian	Azeri	Armenian
Yes	97.5	93.4	97.6
No	2.5	6.6	2.4

One- third of respondents do not name the reasons for which pupils aged 7 to 18 do not attend school (33%) (See Table N M 11). Respondents refuse to answer mainly in Bolnisi and Rustavi. Among reasons of dropout most often is named the choice made by adolescents themselves (had no wish to attend school and dropped out – 18.2%). Further reasons of giving up school were the child’s health state and problems with documentation. Distant location of general educational establishments is a barrier for 7.7% of households not being involved in school education. The number of those who gave up studies due to employment is insignificant. The following reasons could be identified according to districts:

- ✓ No desire to study and illness have equal share (27.4%) in Marneuli;
- ✓ Illness has the highest share in Bolnisi compared to all other districts (66.7%);
- ✓ The main reason of non-involvement in school education in Dmanisi is the distant location of schools (51.7%); the following three factors- lack of desire to study, no possibility to acquire school materials and dropping out of school due to marriage get equal share (11.5%) . Illness is the reason named by 8.2% of respondents.
- ✓ 26.7% did not have a desire to study in Tetrtskharo. For 6.7% the problem was the distant location of a school.
- ✓ The only reason for dropping out of school in Tsalka is lack of desire to study (100%)

Table №M11: What is the reason of not being involved in school education for your family members, if such? (Shown in % by districts)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	Total
Dropped out due to lack of desire to study	16.7	27.4		11.5	26.7	100	15.4	18.2
Had to work				5.7				0.6
There is no school nearby				51.7	6.7		5.3	7.7
Dropped out because of marriage		9.0		11.5	6.7			3.9
Cannot afford to buy school materials		9.0		11.5	6.7		5.3	5.6
Is learning a trade	16.7				6.7			3.3
Is ill		27.4	33.3	8.2				9.7
School education is not necessary							15.9	5.1
Has problems with documentation		18.1			33.3		5.3	9.2
Refused to answer	66.7		66.7		13.3		47.6	33.0
Difficult to answer							5.3	1.7

Problems related to school education

As the research has shown, a little more than one-fifth of respondents (26%) have no problems regarding school education.

Among the named problems, buying text-books and other teaching aids were identified as main problems (49.7%) that correlate with financial resources. The rest of the problems have small share. Almost similar results were reported in district section proportionally, although with small differences: the share of the problem of distant location of schools is relatively high in Tetritskharo district (17.4%), in Tsalka district the poor state of a school building is named by 10.3% and in Dmanisi, Gardabani and Rustavi more respondents note having no problems related to school education (see Table N M12).

Table №M12: What problems would you identify regarding school education? (data by % in district perspective)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	Total
School is very far	2.1	1.9	3.7	11.3	17.4	6.7	9.9	5.6
School building is in a very poor condition	0.0	3.1	0.6	3.5	2.4	10.3	2.0	2.4
Quality of teaching is unsatisfactory	9.3	7.8	3.1	3.1	3.6	7.2	3.4	6.1
Difficult to buy text books and other school supplies	50.0	48.9	62.2	33.4	55.7	54.3	42.1	49.7
Georgian language is not properly taught	0.0	9.7	2.5	1.4	1.2	1.8	0.9	3.5
There are no textbooks translated into the languages of minorities	0.0	0.8	1.9	1.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.6
We have no problems related to school education	31.4	11.3	21.2	37.7	18.6	12.6	34.2	22.9
Other problems	4.3	0.8	0.6	1.4	0.0	0.4	1.5	1.6
Refused to answer	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Difficult to answer	2.9	15.8	3.7	5.9	1.2	6.1	6.0	7.5

Higher education

Higher academic and professional education is accessible for persons with complete general education only. According to statistical data, 60 000 students graduate from schools in Georgia every year and about 30% of them continue studying in higher institutions. That is why the issue of involvement in professional education system is so important.

The research data point to main barriers that play a significant role regarding the accessibility to higher education and at the same time they serve the grounds for the rest of the problems named below. Namely, this is the issue of family's financial resources.

Analysis has revealed the following:

- ✓ Absolute majority of respondents receives /has received higher education in Georgia (particularly, in Tbilisi);
- ✓ The distance of the institution correlates with financial problems (the need of travelling fare), tuition fee, transport expenses;
- ✓ As for the lack of desire to study – besides the fact that financial difficulties hinder the desire to study, in this case language barrier and cultural peculiarities are also involved, which in the first place discourage non-Georgian population from active integration into the space of Georgian statehood.

Survey outcome shows that respondents aged 18-45²¹, with higher education have received their education mainly in Tbilisi and the level they achieved is almost evenly distributed between Bachelor's and Master's/ 5-year higher education (see Table M N 13).

Table №M13: Distribution of respondents with higher education according to the level of study and the location of higher educational institution (%)

Achieved level of higher education	Bachelor's	49.2
	Master's/ 5-year higher education	50.8
Where, in which country do/did you study?	Kvemo Kartli region	2.9
	Tbilisi	93.0
	Another region of Georgia	1.6
	Azerbaijan	0.8
	Armenia	0.8
	Turkey	0.8

The level of satisfaction in relation to teaching quality on both stages of studies is high. Majority notes to have received good quality higher education (see Table N M14).

²¹ 18–45 age group has been distinguished from general sampling based on the principle that upper age limit for receiving higher education is 45 years.

Table №M14: Assessment of the education received on both levels of education (by percentage)

How much are you satisfied with the knowledge you obtained on a Bachelor's course	I received good quality higher education	20.4
	I received more or less quality higher education	78.1
	I received poor quality higher education	0.2
	Difficult to answer	1.2
How much are you satisfied with the knowledge you obtained on a Master's course / 5-year higher educational institution?	I received good quality higher education	36.6
	I received more or less quality higher education	40.9
	I received poor quality higher education	11.1

The vast majority (86.8%) of respondents has no family members with higher education aged 18-45, and the absolute majority (93.3%) has no student members. Among the reasons for the above fact, lack of desire of receiving higher education has the highest share - 29.3% (see Table N M15). Some other reasons were insufficient financial resources (11.9%) and having completed higher education (18.8%), as was the case with kindergarten and school age family members.

According to the analysis made in district perspective, the following was revealed:

- ✓ The highest indicator of lack of desire to study is in Marneuli - 52.4%; Tsalka and Gardabani districts get almost equal share (32-33%)
- ✓ Not being able to pay tuition fee was mostly noted in Bolnisi (25.9%) and Dmanisi (24.9%)

Table №M15: What is the reason of not studying in the higher education institution?

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	Total
Is not of a suitable age	4.7	11.9	4.2	6.3	17.6	22.5	4.0	8.2
Low assessment in entrance exams	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4
Poor knowledge of Georgian language	0.0	0.8	2.0	4.9	0.0	1.4	0.3	0.8
Cannot pay tuition fee	7.3	7.1	25.9	24.9	12.7	12.3	11.6	11.9
No money to pay (private teacher)	5.0	2.3	1.9	2.2	5.3	0.9	3.4	3.3
No money (for accommodation, transport costs)	2.8	0.7	3.3	3.4	10.5	0.4	4.4	3.0
No time	2.4	1.4	6.3	5.3	6.5	2.9	0.7	2.7
No desire	12.6	52.4	23.4	4.9	16.2	32.0	33.2	29.3
No need for higher education	0.7	0.7	1.5	0.2	0.2	1.2	1.3	0.9
Learning a trade/profession	3.6	0.9	0.2	0.7	4.7	0.2	11.2	3.8
Expelled from the institution for not paying tuition fee	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.5	0.3	0.4	0.4
Taking entrance exams this year	1.6	0.0	0.6	0.2	1.1	0.5	0.9	0.8
Has graduated from higher institution	39.4	9.3	17.8	8.6	15.8	11.3	11.1	18.8
Doing the military service	1.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.0	3.2	1.3
Due to illness	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.6
Got married	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	1.1
Preparing to continue studies	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
A housewife	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.4
Refused to study	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Difficult to answer	17.3	9.0	11.5	37.8	6.2	13.2	7.4	12.3

Similar to respondents, their family members get/got education mainly in the capital (82.7%), however, the share of Kvemo Kartli is noteworthy -2.9%. 2.7% of student members of a household receive education in other regions of Georgia (apart from the capital city). Ethnic minorities rarely, but still receive education in their countries of origin (1.2% of students study in Azerbaijan, 1.9% - in Armenia, and 1.7% -in Russia). The choice to study in Russia is mainly made because of the language factor and labor migration.

No significant differences have been observed according to cities/villages. In district, it turned out that part of respondents from Tsalka (27.9%) and Gardabani (5.1%) receive education in Armenia, and the share of those who study in Azerbaijan and Russia is negligible and varies from 2 to 5%.

Problems related to studying in a higher education institution. Most respondents and the majority of their family members (belonging to 18-45 age groups and who are studying /have already graduated from higher education institution) have had no problems with higher education (86.6%). Similar to other cases, the main problem is again financial situation (82.8%) (See Table N M16). Besides, the problem in Tsalka (32.8%) and Tetrtskharo (20%) is distant location of the institution.

Table №M16: What kind of problem did you or your family members faced in terms of getting higher education (by percentage for those respondents (i.e. 13.4%), who point out having problems in higher education)

Unsatisfactory level of teaching	5.6
High tuition fee	82.8
Distant location of the institution	3.2
Accommodation/transport costs	3.9
Difficult to answer	4.5

Education: Attitudes of ethnic minorities and approaches towards them

Majority of ethnic minority representatives (60.6%) are satisfied with the level of teaching Georgian language (see Table N M17). The share of those very much satisfied is 21.9%. It is interesting to see that 12% had a difficulty to answer. No significant differences have been revealed by districts, cities/villages.

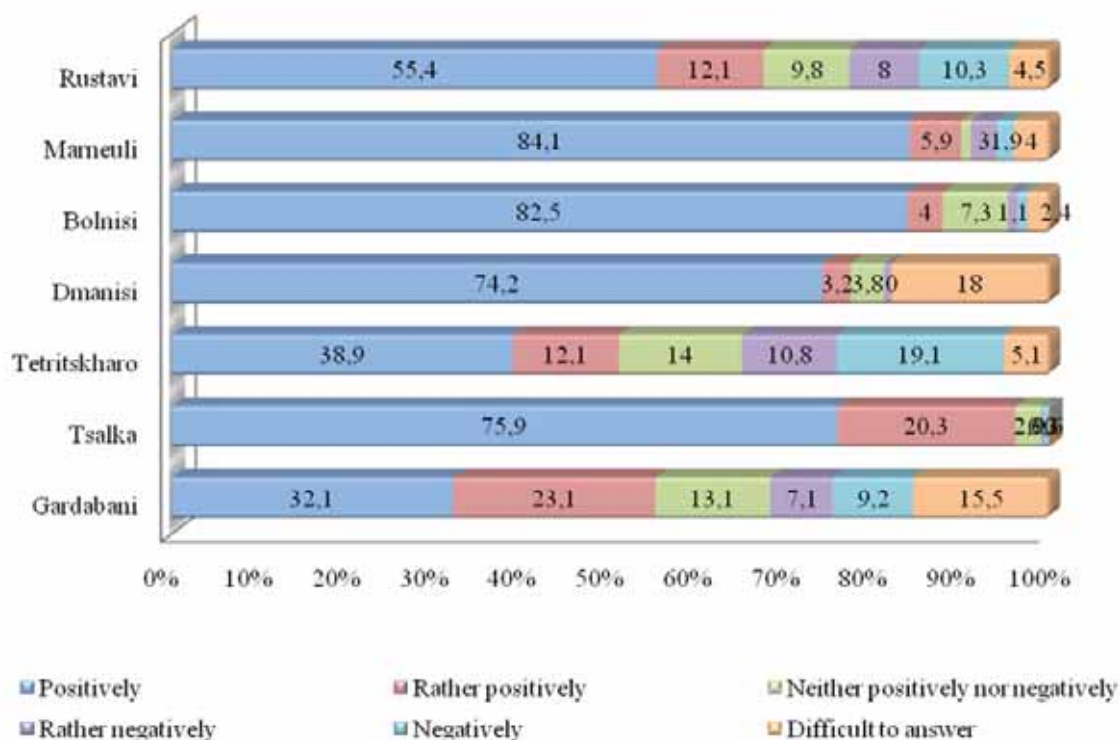
Table №M17: How much are you satisfied by the level of Georgian language teaching in the institution in which your family member is studying? (Data given in %)

Very much satisfied, my family member is taught the language well	21.9
More or less satisfied, although the obtained knowledge is not enough	38.7
Dissatisfied, as the level of state language teaching is unsatisfactory	12.3
Difficult to answer	27.1

Distinguished majority of respondents (65.2%) has never heard of the initiative of Georgian government which allows privileged conditions for national minorities to be enrolled in the higher institution. Around one-third notes that they are aware of the above initiative. 73.1% of respondents assess the initiative positively (the share of those who explicitly give positive assessment is quite high -62.3%). The highest share of neutral (approximately 13-14%) and negative (approximately 7-10%) assessments were

reported in Tetrtskharo and Gardabani. The share of those who gave explicitly negative assessment in Rustavi is 10.3%. Graph N M4 shows the general assessment of the above initiative expressed in percents.

Graph №M4: How would you assess the initiative of Georgian government about allowing national minorities privileged terms for their enrollment in the higher institution? (% in district perspective)



The same trend was revealed when analyzing ethnic section – the number of the informed respondents about the above program within each ethnic group is much lower than that of the uninformed. However, most significant discrepancy was observed among Azeri respondents. According to means of the assessment of government initiative, it is most positively assessed by Azeri respondents, followed by Armenians.

Despite the fact, that the number of respondents who are aware about the privileged terms of enrollment for national minorities is not so small, very few have enjoyed such benefits (see Table N M18).

Table №M18: Has your family member enjoyed the privileged terms for the enrollment in the higher institution? (Quantities and % indicators)

	% indicator	Quantity
Has enjoyed/ is enjoying	3.3	12
Has not enjoyed	91.8	308
Difficult to answer	4.9	17
Total	337	

Vast majority of respondents considers that children of national minorities living in Georgia should get education at all levels (preschool/school/ vocational/higher) in Georgian language (for the detailed information see Table N M19). Besides, receiving education in Georgian language has the highest share – 91.1%, which is supposedly conditioned by the desire of integration into the life of the country that is difficult to implement without removing the language barrier.

Table №M19: Do you think it is necessary that children of national minorities living in Georgia receive education at all levels (preschool/school/ vocational/higher) in Georgian language? (% indicators)

Preschool education	Necessary	84.4
	Not necessary	5.8
	Difficult to answer	9.8
School education	Necessary	91.1
	Not necessary	1.8
	Difficult to answer	7.1
Vocational education	Necessary	86.0
	Not necessary	1.8
	Difficult to answer	12.2
Higher education	Necessary	86.2
	Not necessary	1.8
	Difficult to answer	12.1

If we compare the above answers according to nationalities, we will see that the respondents of all nationalities have underlined the necessity of getting education in Georgian language. Georgians have the most explicit position in this respect. It is interesting that compared to Azeris, proportionally more Armenian citizens consider that children of national minorities should get education (at all levels) in Georgian (see Table N M20).

Table №M20: Do you think it is necessary that children of national minorities living in Georgia receive education at all levels (preschool/school/ vocational/higher) in Georgian language? (% in ethnic perspective)

		Georgian	Azeri	Armenian
Preschool education	Necessary	94.9	67.3	84.0
	Not necessary	2.1	12.1	5.1
	Difficult to answer	3.0	20.6	10.9
School education	Necessary	95.3	83.8	93.9
	Not necessary	1.7	2.1	2.1
	Difficult to answer	3.0	14.0	3.9
Vocational education	Necessary	95.1	71.9	81.7
	Not necessary	1.8	2.0	1.5
	Difficult to answer	3.1	26.1	16.8
Higher education	Necessary	95.2	72.1	81.2
	Not necessary	1.8	1.9	1.0
	Difficult to answer	3.0	26.0	17.8

Are Georgian and non-Georgian pupils/students in equal conditions in educational institutions? Based on survey results, in the first place high share of the lack of information about the above issue is quite

obvious. Furthermore, regarding all four educational institutions, almost every other respondent notes that Georgians and non-Georgians are in equal conditions (see Table N M21). No significant differences have been revealed in ethnic perspective.

Table №M21: Are Georgian and non-Georgian pupils/students in equal conditions in educational institutions? (% indicators)

	In preschool establishment	In school	In vocational school	In higher institution
Yes, they are in equal conditions	49.9	54.5	49.4	49.8
No, Georgians are in better conditions	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4
No, non-Georgians are in better conditions	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
I have no information	27.1	23.3	26.4	26.2
Difficult to answer	17.6	16.7	18.8	18.6

Small number of respondents who indicated unequal conditions for Georgians and non-Georgians had to name what unequal conditions meant in particular and in which educational institution such facts took place. It should be noted that the share of respondents who found it difficult to answer in this small group is very high. Their attitude to the fact that kindergartens did not teach in the language of minorities turned out to be problematic (see detailed information on Table N M 22).

Table №M22: Unequal conditions for Georgians and non-Georgians, mean... (% indicators)

Teaching process is not conducted in native language	In preschool institution	15.2	
	In school	5.6	
	In higher education institution	2.6	
	Difficult to answer	76.6	
Teachers discriminate pupils/students by their ethnic origin	In preschool institution	7.5	
	In school	7.2	
	In vocational school	1.5	
	In higher education institution	2.4	
Difficult to answer		81.5	
	Teaching materials do not exist/ are not sufficient in students' native language	In preschool institution	4.3
		In school	8.5
		In vocational school	1.6
In higher education institution		3.4	
Difficult to answer		82.2	
	Representatives of ethnic minorities have no possibilities to learn Georgian in an early age	In preschool institution	5.3
		In school	3.7
		In vocational school	2.4
In higher education institution		1.7	
Difficult to answer		86.8	
	Pupils/students use violence against pupils/students of a different ethnic origin	In preschool institution	4.5
		In school	3.2
		In vocational school	2.5
In higher education institution		2.4	
Difficult to answer		87.4	

Respondents were to answer the question: *If you had a boy and a girl of equal abilities, whose involvement in educational institution would you support?*

As it turned out, the respondents mainly support the equal involvement of both at all levels of studies. However, if we compare the share of boys and girls in percentage, we will see that boys' indicator exceeds that of girls', especially in the case of vocational and higher education (see Table №M23).

Table №M23: If you had a boy and a girl of equal abilities, whose involvement would you support in preschool/ school/vocational/higher education ? (% indicators)

In preschool establishment	Boy	3.1
	Girl	1.7
	Both equally	91.4
	Refused to answer	0.4
	Difficult to answer	3.3
In school	Boy	3.8
	Girl	1.5
	Both equally	91.8
	Refused to answer	0.3
	Difficult to answer	2.6
In vocational school	Boy	7.8
	Girl	0.8
	Both equally	87.3
	Refused to answer	0.6
	Difficult to answer	3.5
In higher school	Boy	8.2
	Girl	1.0
	Both equally	87.5
	Refused to answer	0.4
	Difficult to answer	2.9

It is interesting that in district perspective, Dmanisi district stood out regarding school education, where 11.8% gave advantage to boys, while regarding higher education, boys were given considerable advantage in Dmanisi again that amounted to 41.8% and also in Gardabani with 16.5%. In ethnic perspective, Azeri population was distinguished regarding vocational and higher education where they gave advantage to boys.

Awareness and availability of various programs and educational-cultural establishments

In the course of the research we tried to find out the level of awareness about certain educational programs of Kvemo Kartli population. Respondents were to tell us whether they had heard about the programs listed below:

- ✓ Intensive teaching of English language
- ✓ Inclusion of children with disabilities in general school education

- ✓ Improvement of teaching quality of languages of national minorities
- ✓ Support of children and youth with special talent
- ✓ Funding students within the framework of the social program
- ✓ Providing vocational education for employment purposes

According to the results of the research, majority of respondents has no information about the above programs (see Table №M25). Relatively better indicator has Intensive teaching of English language which amounts to 40.7%. Besides, the analysis has shown that only 9% has heard of all programs and 52.5% has not heard of any program at all.

Table №M25: Have you heard about the programs listed below? (% indicators)

Intensive teaching of English language	Have heard	40.7
	Have not heard	59.3
Inclusion of children with disabilities in general school education	Have heard	20.7
	Have not heard	79.3
Improvement of teaching quality of languages of national minorities	Have heard	17.9
	Have not heard	82.1
Support of children and youth with special talents	Have heard	23.7
	Have not heard	76.3
Funding students within the social program	Have heard	18.0
	Have not heard	82.0
Providing vocational education for employment purposes	Have heard	22.5
	Have not heard	77.5

Absolute majority of the respondents' group who has at least heard about some of the programs, do not use the program naming lack of desire as the main reason (the indicators for all programs vary between 18-26%). In total, 91.4% do not use any of the programs; Lack of finances is named as one of the reasons for not using intensive English language program is (24.3%), despite the fact that the above program is free of charge (see Table N M26)

No significant differences have been revealed according to districts.

Table №M26: Have you used/are you using the programs listed below (percentage indicators)

Intensive teaching of English language	Using	5.0
	Not using	95.0
Inclusion of children with disabilities in general school education	Using	1.6
	Not using	98.4
Improvement of teaching quality of languages of national minorities	Using	2.4
	Not using	97.6
Support of children and youth with special talents	Using	3.8
	Not using	96.2
Funding students within the social program	Using	0.2
	Not using	99.8
Providing vocational education for employment purposes	Using	0.8
	Not using	99.2

The main reasons for **not using** this or that program named by respondents were: 1. Lack of desire (“We have no desire/ we don’t need” – this indicator for each program varies approximately between 21 -51%) and 2. Unsuitable age (“We don’t have suitable age” – this indicator varies between 10-27%).

The interesting fact is that a small number of respondents note about having no information about any of the programs (indicator varies approximately between 7-11%). The share of respondents who name finances as the reason of not being involved in one of the programs is even smaller (indicator varies approximately between 3-7%). The exception in this respect is Intensive teaching of English language program, where the lack of finances noted by respondents gets the highest indicator (28.4%). In ethnic perspective it was revealed that Azeri indicate higher level of lack of information, while Georgians – the lack of desire (the share of Georgians in this respect considerably exceeds that of Azeri and Armenians). *It seems that “inactiveness”, the lack of desire to be integrated in the country’s life, is the problem of the region in general and not only of non-Georgian population. (For more details see Table №M 27).*

Table №M27: Why have not you used the program (percentage indicators)

Intensive teaching of English language	No information about the program	11
	Could not obtain information timely to get involved in the program	3.7
	Do not have enough financial resources	28.4
	Distant location is the problem for us to participate in the program	3.4
	We have no time to participate in the program	7.6
	Do not have any desire/ no need	21.3
	Not a suitable age	17.8
	Difficult to answer	6.8
Inclusion of children with disabilities in general school education	No information about the program	8.3
	Could not obtain information timely to get involved in the program	2.5
	Do not have enough financial resources	5.4
	Distant location is the problem for us to participate in the program	3.6
	We have no time to participate in the program	1.6
	Do not have any desire/ no need	51
	Not a suitable age	10.1
	Difficult to answer	17.5
Improvement of teaching quality of languages of national minorities in state schools	No information about the program	8
	Could not obtain information timely to get involved in the program	1.9
	Do not have enough financial resources	3
	Distant location is the problem for us to participate in the program	3.7
	We have no time to participate in the program	3.7
	Do not have any desire/ no need	48.7
	Not a suitable age	13.9
	Difficult to answer	17.1
Support of children and youth with special talents	No information about the program	8.1
	Could not obtain information timely to get involved in the program	3.7
	Do not have enough financial resources	7.1
	Distant location is the problem for us to participate in the program	2
	We have no time to participate in the program	2
	Do not have any desire/ no need	35.3
	Not a suitable age	27.7
	Difficult to answer	14.1
Funding students within the social program	No information about the program	9
	Could not obtain information timely to get involved in the program	1.5
	Do not have enough financial resources	4.6
	Distant location is the problem for us to participate in the program	0.4
	We have no time to participate in the program	0.8
	Do not have any desire/ no need	45
	Not a suitable age	16.3
	Difficult to answer	22.5
Providing vocational education for employment purposes	No information about the program	6.8
	Could not obtain information timely to get involved in the program	1.6
	Do not have enough financial resources	7.4
	Distant location is the problem for us to participate in the program	2.5
	We have no time to participate in the program	4.6
	Do not have any desire/ no need	26.4
	Not a suitable age	10.5
	Difficult to answer	13.5

Note: The data were calculated on the basis of respondents who were meant to be beneficiaries of any given program but are not using them

Those respondents who noted that they were using at least one of the programs listed above, determined the level of satisfaction with using the program (programs) (see Table N M28)

- ✓ All programs have fallen under the field of high evaluations. Majority of that group of respondents who (whose family member) used at least one of the programs, express explicit or more or less satisfaction with the program(s).
- ✓ Despite the above, the share of those respondents that are explicitly or more or less dissatisfied with the program(s) is not that insignificant. This especially refers to Intensive teaching of English language (in which the total indicator of satisfaction level exceeds by only 10% the total indicator of dissatisfaction), and its mean is the lowest (2.27%) – which is close to the neutral point on the scale.
- ✓ Funding students within the framework of the social program was noted to be fully satisfactory (mean - “4”).

According to district perspective, the following has been revealed:

- ✓ The level of satisfaction with the Intensive teaching of English language was relatively low in Marneuli and Bolnisi (25-31%), while in Rustavi the share of the dissatisfied constitutes 40%.
- ✓ Dissatisfaction with the program of improvement of teaching quality of national minority languages was observed in Marneuli.

Table №M28: Means of the level of satisfaction of various program users (means have been calculated on a four-point scale where “1” indicates “very dissatisfied”, and 4 – “very satisfied”; neutral point is 2.5, If count data is below 2.5 then it corresponds to the field of dissatisfaction and if it is higher than 2.5 – it coincides with the field of satisfaction)

How much are you satisfied with the following programs...?	Means
Intensive teaching of English language?	2.73
Inclusion of children with disabilities in general educational school	3.15
Improvement of teaching quality of languages of national minorities in state schools?	3.69
Support of children and youth with special talents	3.44
Funding students within the social program	4.00
Providing vocational education for employment purposes	3.78

Respondents were to answer whether the following educational and cultural establishments were available for them or their family members:

- ✓ The Center for Adult Education (teaching foreign languages, computers, etc.)
- ✓ Library
- ✓ Museum
- ✓ Cinema/theatre
- ✓ Other cultural establishments (culture centers, writers’/artists’ house, etc.)
- ✓ Different amateur clubs/sections

On general assessment, a considerable part of Kvemo Kartli inhabitants note that any given cultural and educational establishment does not exist or is unavailable in the district/town (see Table N M 29). This trend has also been reflected in the assessment of various problems by respondents (see the sub-chapter: Infrastructure and Housing conditions in Kvemo Kartli), where the availability of cultural and educational establishments was named as one of the biggest problem. Among the respondents who noted that such establishments were fully or more or less available, the libraries get the highest share (34.6%). The research has shown that in district perspective the highest indicator of unavailability of the above cultural and educational establishments is in Bolnisi and Dmanisi districts (indicator varies between 54-57%). Tsalka district is distinguished by not having any educational and cultural establishments at all (the choice of the answer “they do not exist in our district/town” –exceeds 90%).

As it turned out, all kinds of educational and cultural establishments are available for 15% of respondents, while none of them are available for 21.5%.

Table №M29: How available are different cultural and educational establishments (% according to districts)

Available or not		Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	Total
Center for Adult Education	Available/more or less available	55.6	10	19.2	15.5	17	0.5	10.7	24.7
	Not available	34.3	7.9	66.1	75.7	49.0	2.8	43.9	36.6
	Does not exist in the district/town	0.2	41.9	0.7	3.6	23.3	90.2	32.0	21.5
	Difficult to answer	9.8	40.3	13.9	5.2	10.8	6.5	13.4	17.2
Library	Available/more or less available	69.5	4.6	30.5	27.6	36.5	18.8	24.9	34.6
	Not available	21.3	7.9	54.4	64.8	39.0	4.1	30.7	27.7
	Does not exist in the district/town	0.2	56.9	1.6	2.4	17.5	73.7	30.6	23.2
	Difficult to answer	8.7	30.6	13.4	5.2	7.0	3.5	14	14.5
Museum	Available/more or less available	64.1	1.8	20.2	14.2	17.7		17	26.5
	Not available	22.4	7.5	61.5	74.9	46.5	3.3	38.1	31.3
	Does not exist in the district/town	0.4	61.9	6.1	5.5	31.0	93.2	32.0	27.4
	Difficult to answer	13.0	28.9	12.1	5.4	4.8	3.5	12.9	14.8
Cinema/theatre	Available/more or less available	65.4	3	18.7	8	7.7		8.6	24.4
	Not available	28.9	6.6	61.5	41.8	46.0	3.1	46.6	32.5
	Does not exist in the district/town	0.4	62.8	7.5	44.5	41.8	93.5	32.9	31.0
	Difficult to answer	5.2	27.5	12.3	5.6	4.5	3.5	12.0	12.1
Other cultural establishments	Available/more or less available	60	3.3	15.5	6.4	8.2	0.2	8.3	22.4
	Not available	28.5	7.2	61.8	74.5	45.0	3.1	43.5	33.8
	Does not exist in the district/town	1.3	59.5	9.6	13.2	39.8	93.3	34.4	29.1
	Difficult to answer	10.2	30.0	13.0	5.9	7.0	3.5	13.8	14.7
Different amateur circles/sections	Available/more or less available	58.7	8.4	20.3	5.6	22.8	11.9	15.6	26.7
	Not available	27.8	9.0	63.1	73.9	45.2	3.3	38.6	33.3
	Does not exist in the district/town	0.4	42.5	2.3	13.4	24.0	81.2	29.9	21.6
	Difficult to answer	13.0	40.1	14.4	7.1	8.0	3.7	15.9	18.4

The following four reasons were revealed for the main cause of unavailability, with more or less variations:

- ✓ Insufficient financial resources

- ✓ The lack of the above educational and cultural establishments in the town/district
- ✓ Lack of desire
- ✓ Distance

In district perspective we should note Dmanisi and Gardabani districts where the indicator of “Lack of desire” is relatively high (approx. 23-40%), while in Tsalka the most problematic issue is the distance (see Table N M30).

Table №M30: What is the reason of nonavailability of any given cultural and educational establishment? (% indicators)

What is the reason for non-availability (more or less unavailable or completely unavailable...)	Center for Adult Education (teaching foreign languages, computer skills, etc)	libraries	Museums	Cinema/theatre	Different cultural and educational establishments (culture centers, writers' artists' houses, etc.)	Various amateur circles/sections
Insufficient financial resources	49.5	24.1	30.0	16.0	36.6	40.4
Distance	15.6	18.0	16.3	1.8	14.8	14.1
Lack of information	3.0	4.0	3.2	5.9	3.2	2.9
Lack of time	5.0	7.7	7.5	11.6	6.5	5.5
Lack of desire	13.9	24.2	20.1	17.4	16.4	18.1
Lack of such establishments	7.4	14.1	17.4	0.1	17.4	10.7
Difficult to answer	5.5	8.1	5.6	21.5	5.1	8.2

Healthcare

Summary

Health of the population is one of the priority spheres in achieving social protection goals. In recent researches carried out throughout Georgia, availability of healthcare is named by the population the second most crucial problem after employment²². Kvemo Kartli population often complains about health problems. In this respect, Tetrtskharo and Gardabani districts are particularly distinguished. Among other health services, Kvemo Kartli population mainly address specialists in Medical establishments. Addressing a family doctor is relatively rare and this is exercised by families with insurance policies, which can be explained by health insurance strategy. Having health insurance has a positive influence on the use of medical services. In this case corporative and private health insurance policies are especially effective. This is due to the fact that families with insurance policies are better informed about the possibilities of medical services and are able to use this possibility more effectively. Generally, similar to widely spread practices in Georgia and post-Soviet space, the practice of self-treatment is also

²² UNICEF. 2010. How do Georgian children and families with children cope with the negative impact of financial crisis?

common among Kvemo Kartli population judging by high indicator of buying medicines, against the rare visits to doctors.

Kvemo Kartli population is mostly satisfied with various medical services available to them. Level of satisfaction with outpatient services tends to be higher in relation to hospital services, especially in terms of qualified medical personnel and humanistic attitude.

Covering healthcare expenses is the most painful problem for low income families which often worsens their hard economic situation even more. Within this research, it has been revealed that the expenses related to medical service and medicinal drugs have driven one sixth of families in Kvemo Kartli region into more poverty (based on evaluations by families) and for half of the families it has turned out to be a heavy burden which considerably affected their budgets. Covering medical expenses is an especially heavy burden for families without health insurance. It is relatively easier to cover medicinal expenses compared to medical services, however, it is as painful. In this case the difference between families with and without health insurance has not been revealed, which is due to the fact that most of health insurance packages do not cover the expenses of medicinal drugs at all or cover partially.

The research outcome shows that introduction of health insurance programs has relatively improved the health of the population. Insured families get medical services more often and these expenses do not burden them as much. However, for the part of insured population, healthcare problems still remain unsolved. In often cases, population does not exactly know what kind of free services are available for them within the insurance package. The fact that insurance companies finance health insurance only partly, complicates the matter. That is why only half of the insured families notes about medical services covered by insurance companies.

Among the barriers in getting medical services, the most important is the one related with the cost of service. The distance of medical establishments is more problematic for rural settlements, especially for the inhabitants in Tsalka district. Inhabitants of villages in Bolnisi, Marneuli and Tetrtskhara districts also mention the distance of medical establishments. Even though the distance causes the problem, it would stop being problematic if families had enough economic resources.

Less than one- third of the population in Kvemo Kartli has health insurance. One third of those with health insurance have been insured within the insurance program for low income families. But this type of insurance is provided to rural population only. There are also other form of insurance provided by state and municipal programs: for instance, insurance of public school teachers, which also covers mainly rural inhabitants. In terms of coverage, corporate insurance is prevailing, however, mostly in towns and especially in Rustavi. A very small part of population has private health insurance and that is mostly in city type of settlements. Citizens without insurance consider the main reason for not having insurance policy the lack of financial resources. Non-ethnic Georgians are mainly oriented at state and municipal insurance programs but for the lack of information they cannot use the insurance and despite their efforts they are not able to be involved in the program.

Health state of the population

16.4% of Kvemo Kartli households participating in the survey have no practically healthy members, i.e. in 83.6% of families there is at least one member with health problems. According to average statistical data regarding the question, in Kvemo Kartli region there are on average 3 practically healthy members

in a family. As can be seen from the research, there are practically healthy members in the families whose several members have health insurance. If we have a closer look at the means of the type of insurance and of practically healthy family members, we will see that there are more healthy members in the families of households, in which some of the members have state insurance (mean of healthy family members is 3.38). Likewise, the number of practically healthy family members are in households, where a family member has public school teachers' health insurance (mean 2.86). More family members have health problems among the displaced households and have health insurance for IDPs living in compact settlements and individual insurance which the family covers with their own means (in both cases the mean is 1.72). Households that are insured within the insurance program for the poor, often suffer from health problems. To explain this fact, we need to take the following precondition into consideration: on the one hand, the poor health state in the families with individual insurance is due to the fact that these families acquired private health insurance for that very reason of having health problems. As for those families who are below the poverty line and IDPs, they are under the hardest economic conditions, thus being unable to visit a medical establishment until the illness gets into an acute state. Besides, the families often do not know how to use the health insurance policy²³ or due to expensive medicinal drugs are not able to take the course of treatment. All the above factors seriously affect the health state of family members. Sociological research into this issue prove that the use of health insurance provided within the targeted social assistance programs is limited, which in the first place is related to insufficient provision of information to beneficiaries.

If we analyze the health state of the population in district perspective, it will turn out that households living in Marneuli district have more practically healthy family members, while the families living in households in Tetrtskharo district have more complaints about health problems.

At least one member in 34.1% of families had some minor health problems that have been easily eliminated in the past 12 months (mean statistics on the datum is 0.65). There are more complaints about minor health problems in rural population. According to districts, complaints about minor health problems are observed in Gardabani and Tetrtskharo.

At least one member in 43.3% of families has had chronic disease in the past 12 months requiring long and regular treatment. Chronic diseases according to districts are more widely spread in households living in Tetrtskharo district. At least one member in 12% of families under survey has had an acute disease requiring operation in the past 12 months. This indicator is again high in Tetrtskharo district. In 3.1% of families under survey there is at least one member suffering from serious illness that requires constant care (the research has revealed that there are 114 persons suffering from serious diseases in Kvemo Kartli). The number of people suffering from serious disease is high in Tetrtskharo and Gardabani districts.

²³ UNICEF. 2010. Barriers to Access to Social Services

Availability of medical services

Graph №E1 shows the indicators of the use of various medical services by households living in Kvemo Kartli region. Graph №E2 shows the use of various medical services by households living in Kvemo Kartli region according to health insurance policy holders. We will consider how each medical service is being used.

78.6% of families have not used the services of a **family doctor** for the past 12 months. The indicator of using the family doctor in Kvemo Kartli region is rather low and in general, equals to 21%. That the service of a family doctor is not used, does not indicate the good health state of the population under this survey, if we take into account that 77.5% of families have frequently acquired medicines in the past 12 months. This controversy suggests that the population actively resorts to self-treatment. Besides, the results of the research show that family doctor's service is more often used by families whose all or some of the members are insured²⁴. Among the insured, the family doctor's service is most often used by families with health insurance provided to IDPs in compact settlements, which is natural, since health problems are more acute in the households consisting of IDPs. According to nationalities, family doctor's service in Kvemo Kartli region is used by a quarter of ethnic Georgians (24.1%), while this indicator in Azeri and Armenian households is 18.1% and 9.8% respectively.

Kvemo Kartli population often apply to *medical specialists and outpatient treatment* rather than medical doctor (in the past 12 months, at least one member of 36.2% of families used the service of a medical specialist). This fact indicates that population addresses directly a medical specialist often avoiding a family doctor. This is on one hand due to the fact that family doctor's institution has been recently introduced and people are not accustomed to using the service. Consequently, family doctor's services are mainly used by families with health insurance. Family doctor's service is the constituent part of health insurance package. Insurance companies implement their services via medical doctors. Over the past 12 months, almost half of the town's inhabitants have used the services of medical specialist (48.7%) , while the same service in rural areas has been used by only 28.2%. The indicator of the use of medical specialists by families with health insurance is higher than by those without. This can be explained by the fact that families with insurance, in general, often address medical establishments where they first visit the family doctor who afterwards gives the patient the referral to the specialist.

The members of 2.2% of the interviewed families have *undergone surgeries* (in hospital without staying overnight) in the past 12 years. The above medical service was more frequently used in towns and by families with health insurance. The members of 7% of the interviewed families have undergone surgeries (were hospitalized) in the past 12 years. Indicators of having undergone surgeries are insignificantly higher in families with health insurance, than in those without insurance.

5 % of population living in Kvemo Kartli region has required *hospitalization* without surgery. In this case again, the persons with health insurance used hospital services more often than others.

One fifth of Kvemo Kartli families have used *ambulance service* in the past 12 months. Despite the fact that ambulance service is free in Georgia, it is most frequently used by families with health insurance.

²⁴ The indicator of using family doctor by uninsured households is 18.7%; the indicator of using a family doctor by the families where some members are insured is 27.9% and where all members are insured -25.9%.

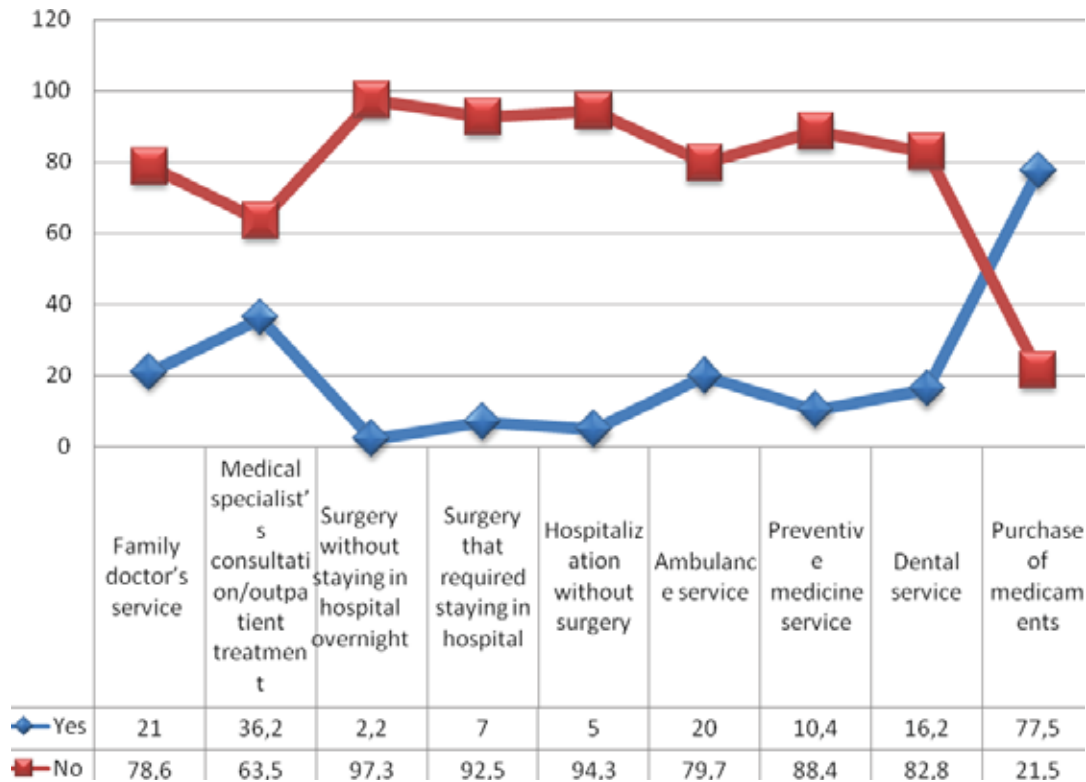
Indicator of the use of *preventive medicine services* is very low and equals to 10.4%. The above indicator in families with insurance exceeds that of uninsured families twice. Preventive medicine services are used by a small number of families in rural areas, predominantly by the insured ones. The low indicator of the use of preventive medicine service shows that the post-socialist medical service tradition is still going on, when due to economic problems the patients would address medical establishments only in acute and emergency cases.

16.2% of the interviewed families have used *dental services* in the past 12 months. The indicator of the above type of medical service is twice higher in families with corporate and private insurance than among those who are provided with the insurance by state program or in families with no insurance. Dental services are more used in towns than in villages.

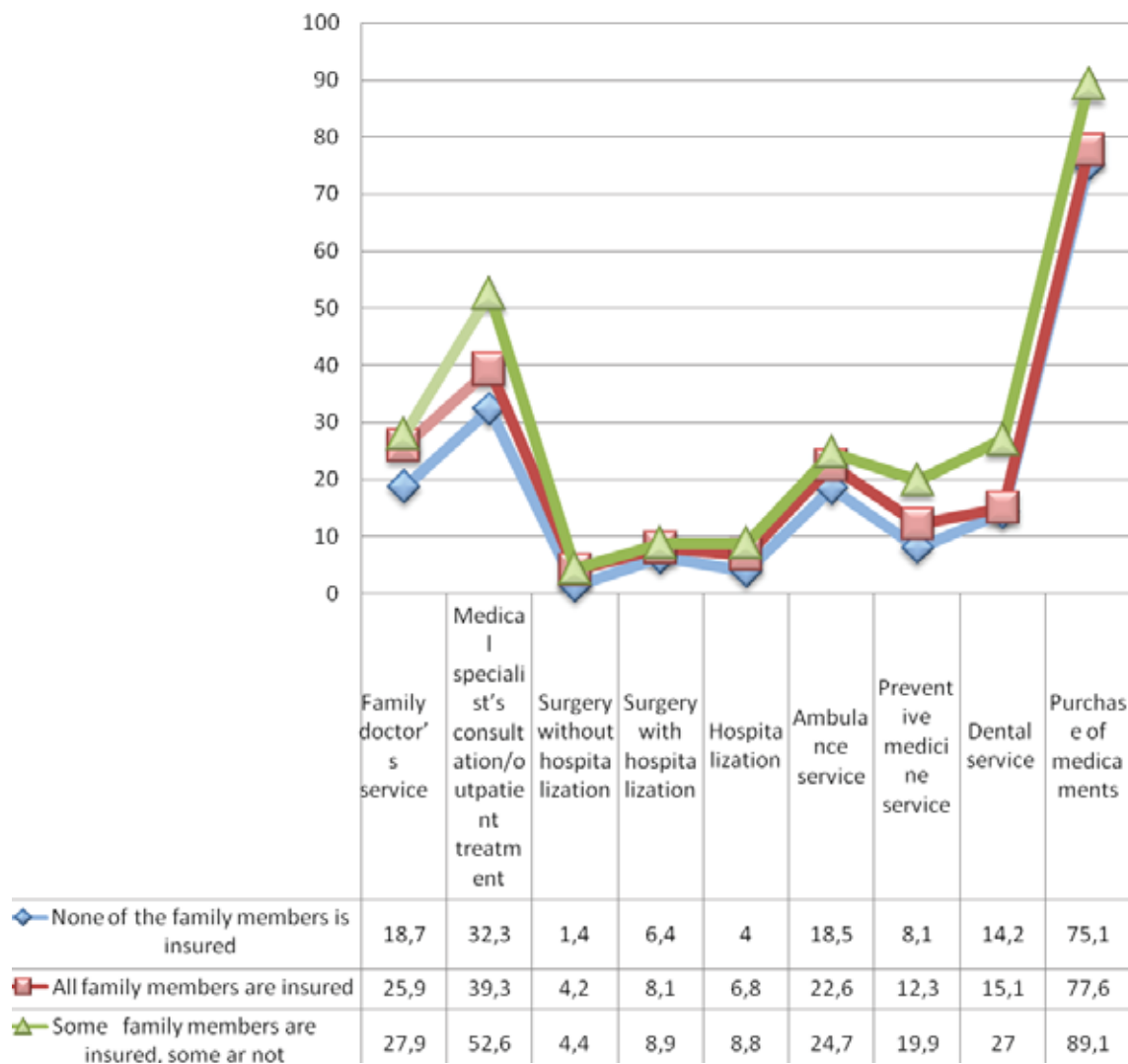
77.5% of the interviewed families have *acquired medicaments* in the past 12 months. Kvemo Kartli population actively uses medicaments while the indicator of the use of medical services is quite low. This once again speaks for the fact that self-treatment practices are very common among the population.

Graphs №E1 and №E2 show the general distribution of any given medical service users, as well as the distribution of users according to policy holders.

Graph №E1: have you used any given services below in the past 12 months?



Graph №E2: Distribution of different medical service users in the past 12 months according to health insurance policy holders.



Level of satisfaction with rendered medical services

Out of 45.6% of Kvemo Kartli households who have used outpatient treatment over the past 12 months, more than half (28.8%) is satisfied with treatment results. 12.3% of families are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. The indicator of dissatisfaction with treatment results is low and equals 4.5%.

The indicator of the use of hospital service is low – 12.3%. Most users of the above service are satisfied with treatment results, i.e. 61.8%, and 7.3% is dissatisfied.

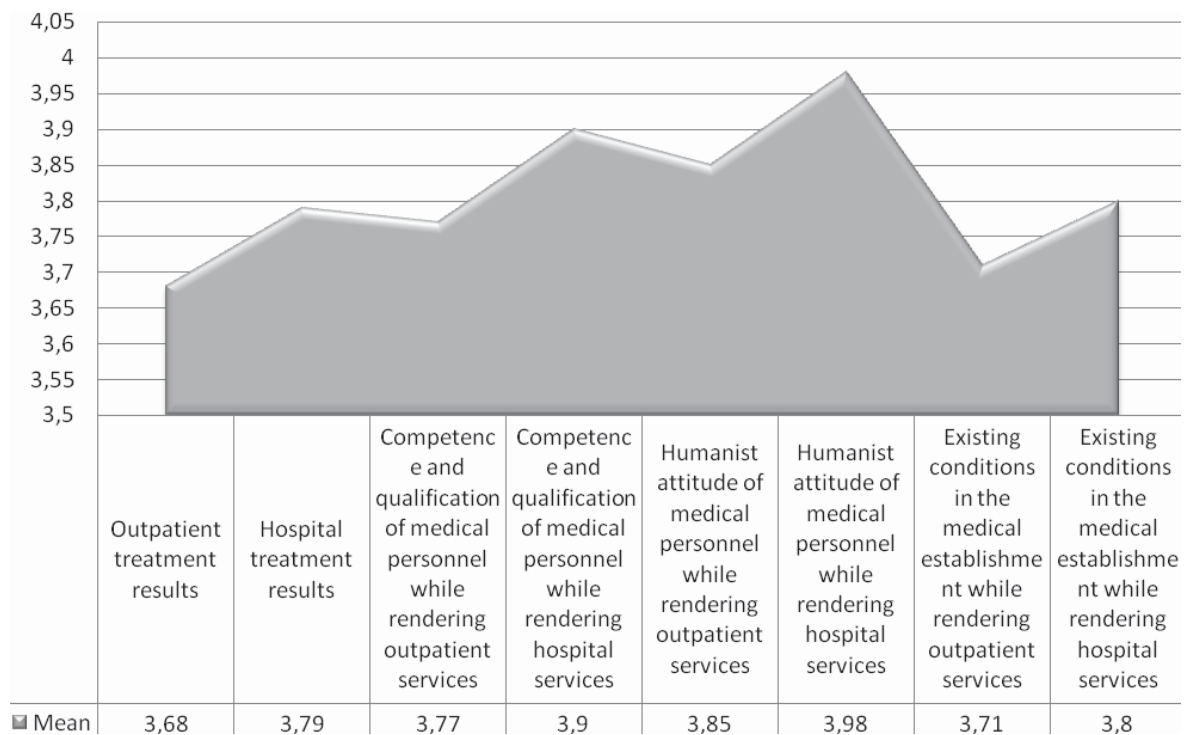
66.4 % of families who have used outpatient's medical service (45.6% of families) over the past 12 months are satisfied with the competence and qualification of medical personnel. 26.3% of families give

neither positive nor negative evaluation. Out of 66.6% of families using hospital services, 12.3% are particularly satisfied with the competence and qualification of medical personnel.

Less than one third of families using outpatient medical service assess the humanist attitude of medical personnel in a neutral or negative way, while the families using hospital services give a slightly more negative assessment. More than one third of outpatient’s service users assess the infrastructure of medical establishments and existing conditions neutrally or negatively. Among the users of hospital services the indicator of neutral and negative assessments is rising and reaches 40.5%.

If we compare the means of the level of satisfaction of medical service users in general, we will see that patients express most satisfaction with the competence, qualification and humanist attitude of medical personnel in hospitals, while they are less satisfied with the outpatient treatment results and the existing services. The means of infrastructure and existing conditions is low as well (see Graph №E3):

Graph №E3: Means of the assessment of different criteria given by Kvemo Kartli population on services rendered by medical establishments (1 meaning “very much dissatisfied” and 5 – “very much satisfied”).



The research results show that the absolute majority of Kvemo Kartli population receive medical services within the country. 0.8% of households from Kvemo Kartli went abroad for treatment –there are only 32 such cases. The main destination abroad for treatment purposes is Azerbaijan (12 cases in all), followed by Armenia (8 cases). 3 people went to Russia from Kvemo Kartli. Only a few occasions of going to Turkey, Greece and Belorussia for treatment purposes have been reported.

Representatives of ethnic minorities living in Kvemo Kartli dominate among those who have gone abroad for treatment. If we look at the reasons for which they go abroad for treatment, we will find out

that almost one- third of them were taken abroad by relatives living there (among the given reasons, 30.9% name the above). In one-fifth of the cases (21.4%) of receiving treatment abroad, patients developed the illness while being there. Among those whose family member got treatment abroad, a quarter gives advantage to treatment which they received there due to the following factors: they claim that the particular disease can only be cured there (11.7%); 6.8% considers that there is a high level of medical service in the countries concerned; 26.2% considers that treatment is cheaper abroad (in this case they meant Armenia and Azerbaijan). Looking at the issue of treatment abroad, we can see that the choice of individuals is related to the country of their ethnic origin where they have social contacts or it may be caused by the influence of migration.

Covering medical expenses

Apart from medicaments, medical service expenses are mainly covered from families' regular incomes. This is declared by more than half (57.8%) of the users of medical services (which constitute 60.7% of entire Kvemo Kartli population). The second source is family savings (12.6%). Health insurance has covered the expenses for 9.7% of medical service users. This indicator is 48.8% in the families where all members are insured and 14.5% in families whose only some of the members are insured. To cover medical expenses, households living in Kvemo Kartli region sometimes have to get interest – bearing debt from a private person or a bank (6% of the interviewed point out to the above practice). Relatives and friends also make certain contribution to covering medical expenses (4.7%) (see Table №E1).

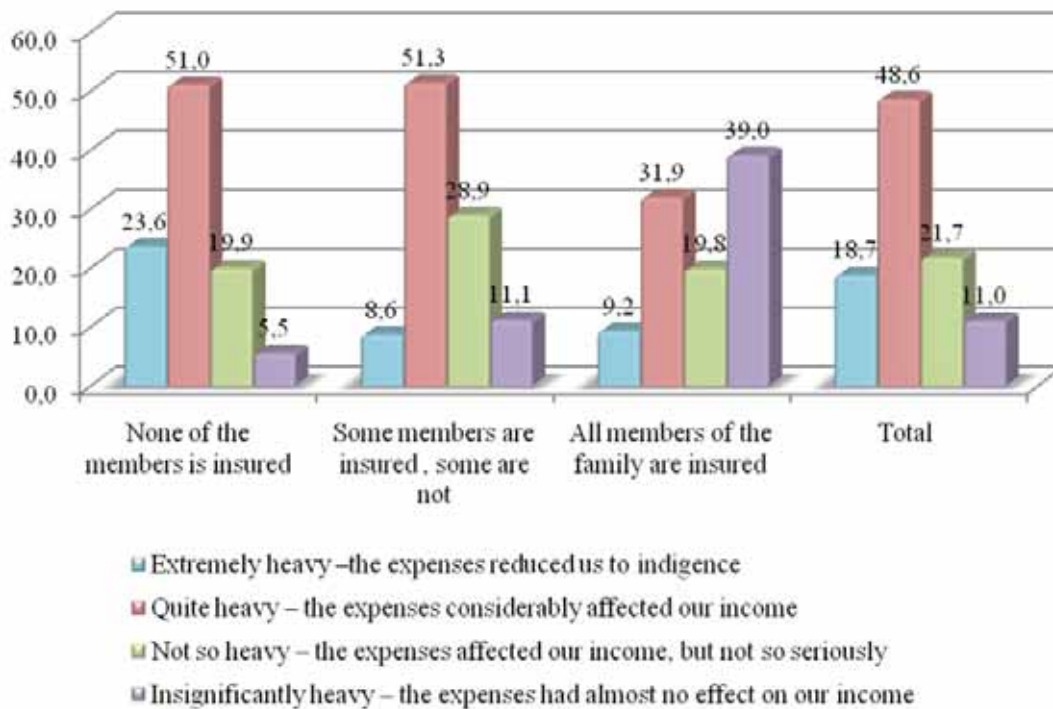
Table №E1: How does Kvemo Kartli population cover medical expenses (in the perspective of insurance policy holders)

	None of the family members is insured (%)	Some family members are insured, some are not (%)	All members of the family are insured (%)	General (%)
From regular income of the family	58.6	73.1	33.1	57.8
From family savings	14.7	7.1	9.9	12.6
From selling property	2.8	0.9	1.7	2.3
Got an interest-bearing loan	3.6	2.3	1.9	3.1
Borrowed from friends (without interest rate)	3.4	1.5	2.3	2.9
By the help of friends/relatives	4.7	0.1	0.6	3.3
Medical expenses have been covered by insurance	0.0	14.5	48.8	9.7
Treatment was free of charge as it was covered by the program	5.0	0.1	0.8	3.5
Treatment was free of charge	4.8	0.0	0.0	3.2
Other sources	2.1	0.3	0.9	0.4

18.7% of families living in Kvemo Kartli region declares that the expenses they have incurred for medical services in the past 12 months have actually reduced them to poverty. Considerable differences have been revealed between the insured and uninsured families. If 23.6% of uninsured families state that medical expenses have practically reduced them to indigence, 8.6% of families in which only some members are insured and 9.2% of families where all members are insured - state the same above.

Regardless the fact whether the family is insured or not, covering medical expenses is a considerable burden for more than half of the families (see Graph №E4). But roughly speaking, for families without insurance, medical expenses are twice as much burden than for families with insurance. One- third of families consider these expenses not such a heavy or insignificantly heavy burden, mainly those, who are insured.

Graph №E4: How heavy a burden was it for your family to cover medical service expenses? (% - in perspective of insurance policy holders)



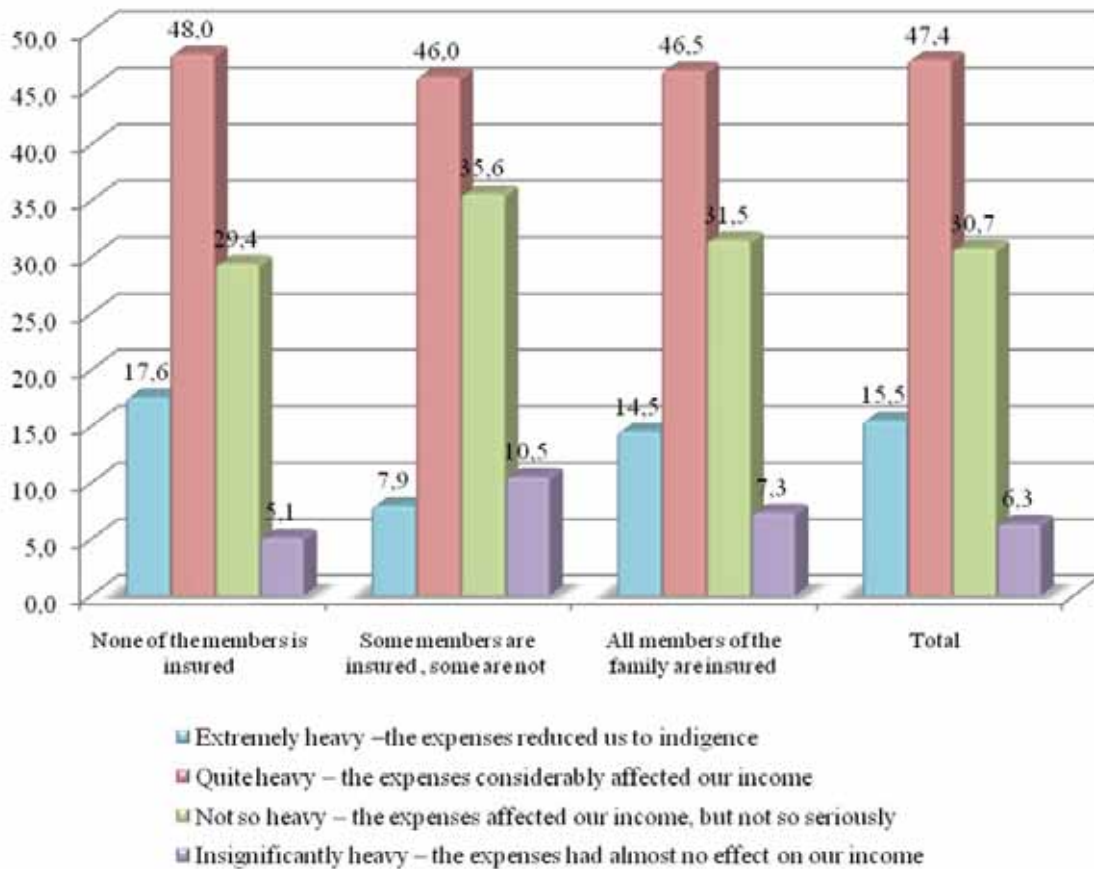
18.5% of the interviewed families did not actually use medicaments during last year. A quarter of families use medicaments daily (23.1%). Added to it, there are families (16.35 of all interviewed families) who use medicaments for the course of treatment with regular intervals. 35.6% of families use medicaments only during illness. The following fact requires special attention; 6.4% of the interviewed households in Kvemo Kartli state that their family members require serious medication, however, they have no money to buy medicine.

The research outcome shows that insurance companies almost never cover medication expenses (only 1.9% of families indicate coverage of medication expenses by insurance companies). Population covers medication costs from regular family income (80.8%), however, family savings, relatives'/friends' help and borrowing is the important source for the purchase of medicaments.

Since most insurance companies do not fully cover medication costs (or the patients often practice self-medication), it is difficult to cover the cost of medicaments both for insured and uninsured families. It is easy to cover the medication expenses for slightly more than one- third of the interviewed families (37%). 15.5% has been practically reduced to indigence. In this category, the share of the families who

regularly require medicaments is especially large. Uninsured population has difficulties in covering medicament expenses (see Graph №E5).

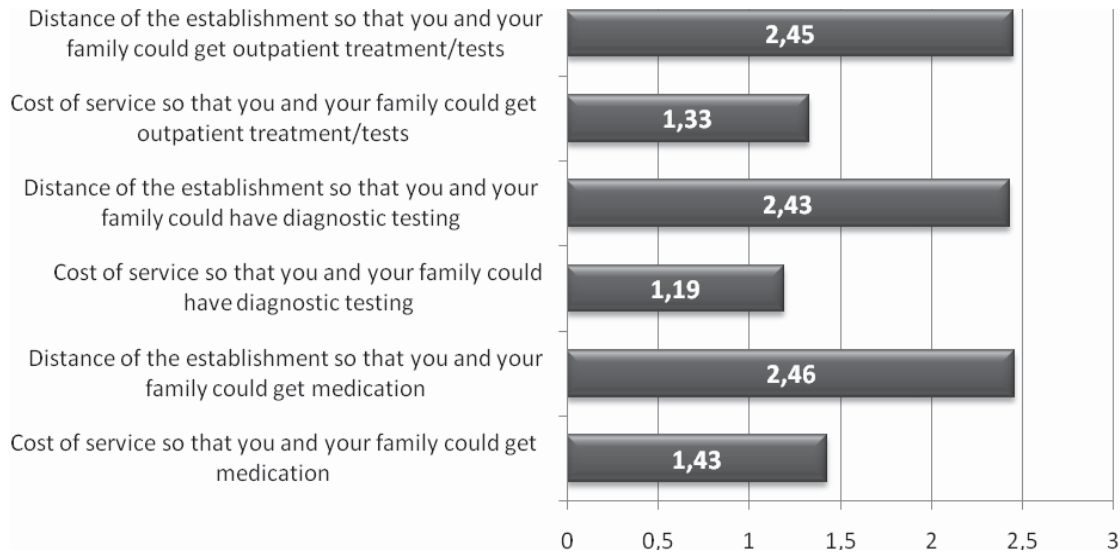
Graph №E5: How heavy a burden was it for your family to cover medicament expenses? (% - in perspective of insurance policy holders)



Availability of Medical services

In the course of the research, we have examined two major barriers in the availability of medical services: the distance of medical establishment and cost of medical service. Respondents were to evaluate how much these barriers hindered the availability of medical services for them and their family members. Graph №E6 shows the mean of distance and service cost barriers in relation to medical services. 4 points is a maximum indicator where the barrier is absolute and the family was not able to get any given medical service due to this factor.

Graph № E6: How much each of the listed factors has been a hindrance for you and your family members in receiving the required medical service in the last 12 months? (point 4 –no barrier, point 1 – absolute barrier)



As it can be seen from the diagram, cost of medical service is quite a strong barrier for the population, especially when diagnostic testing and hospital treatment are required. The distance of medical establishments for city dwellers creates almost no barrier, while it is a serious barrier for rural inhabitants in Kvemo Kartli. To compare different districts of Kvemo Kartli region, Tsalka inhabitants most often consider the distance of medical establishments as a barrier in their treatment. The distance of medical establishments creates a barrier for Bolnisi, Marneuli and Tetrtskharo district inhabitants as well. Despite the fact that for rural inhabitants medical establishment is sometimes far away from the settlement, they still manage to cover that distance when so required, which cannot be said of funding medical services.

Health insurance

From 2007, on the initiative of the Georgian government, state/ municipal health insurance programs were introduced. A system that was created covered 30% of the population's insurance with the starting level of 1-2% during 4 years. Unlike vouchers introduced in the sphere of education that are universally distributed, in healthcare sphere, mainly the poor and the poorest part benefited from it, but middle class and wealthy people also got some advantages. In order to increase the availability of medical services, the poor families received free health insurance policies. Only a small part of families have other type of insurance. From the results of different researches/ studies it is obvious that very small part having private and corporate insurances uses the insurance more effectively and their budget does not suffer much from medical service costs. In this case we should take two factors into account: in the case of private or corporate health insurance, the insured pay for the insurance themselves and consequently, they are more demanding towards the services they receive. Besides, other studies

report,²⁵ that the population insured within the state programs, is less informed about the terms of health insurance and makes less efforts to receive medical services.

In terms of results, the research conducted in Kvemo Kartli shows the same trend.

It can be seen from the results of the research that two-thirds (72.6%) of the interviewed families have no health insurance. Families with health insurance (i.e. 27.3% of Kvemo Kartli households) have the following health insurance packages (Table №E2):

Table №E2: What type of health insurance package do you and your family members have? (%)

Insurance for “population below the poverty line”	33.6
Health insurance for IDPs in compact settlements	0.8
State or local government funded health insurance	5.1
Health insurance for public school teachers	17.3
Other state insurance intended for one person only	8.5
Private corporate insurance, i.e. insurance from workplace	24.2
Individual insurance paid by family	2.6
Difficult to answer	8.0

It can be seen from the data that one-third of families has state funded insurance for population below the poverty line. If we analyze the demographic perspective of the insured, we will see that 45.4% of rural households have the above type of insurance while this indicator in towns is 20.3%. If we consider that the assessment of population below poverty line is objective, it will turn out that poverty in Kvemo Kartli region is mainly concentrated in villages. Most beneficiaries of free health insurance under the medical assistance program for the poor live in Dmanisi, followed by Bolnisi and Marneuli. According to ethnic perspective, most beneficiaries of the free health insurance for the poor are the families of Greek (76.9%), Azeri (53.9%) and Armenian (35.6%) origin (28.1% of Georgian families get the free health insurance for the poor).

In terms of coverage, among the insured, corporate insurance is in the second place (24.2%). Mostly urban household members have the above type of insurance (in towns the indicator is 45.4%, in villages - 5.3%) and it mostly covers Rustavi inhabitants. 17.3% of the insured has public school teachers' insurance which covers a quarter of the insured population living in villages and occupies the second place while it covers only 10.4% of the insured population in towns. Insignificant part of population of Kvemo Kartli living in compact settlements has health insurance, mainly in Rustavi, Gardabani and Dmanisi. Individual insurance which is covered by family incomes is provided to a small part of families (2.6%) mainly in Rustavi, Tetrtskharo and Tsalka.

²⁵ UNICEF. 2010. Barriers to Access to Social Services

Families without health insurance

Not a single member of 72.6% of the interviewed families (2115 families) has health insurance. Only some members of 14.8% of families (429 families) have insurance. Table №E3 reflects the main reasons why the households or their members living in Kvemo Kartli are not insured.

Table № E3: Factors due to which a household or the member(s) of a household have not been insured (% of positive answers among families without insurance)

No information about state/municipality funded health insurance	9.4
No information about necessary procedures for getting state/municipality funded health insurance	10.0
A household was not included in the state/municipality funded health insurance program despite the efforts	25.9
Is eligible for state/municipality funded health insurance program but has not been given the policy yet	2.9
Lack of the sum necessary for buying the private insurance package	51.1
A household does not see any need for insurance	7.7

The dominant reason for not having the insurance is named the lack of the sum for acquiring the one (51.1% of the uninsured). The above barrier is underscored particularly by inhabitants living in city type settlements, and according to district perspective, the inhabitants of Tsalka, Tetrtskharo, Bolnisi and Rustavi. This reason is less frequently stated by Azeri respondents. This can be explained by the fact that the respondents of Azeri origin are mainly oriented at the state and municipality funded insurance programs. The next main reason for not having the insurance is that households were not included in the state and municipality funded insurance programs despite their efforts (25.9%). This barrier is mentioned by village inhabitants twice more often, than by household members living in towns. Lack of information about the state and municipality funded insurance programs as well as necessary procedures is a problem for more than a quarter of Kvemo Kartli families (29.4%). Lack of information is more often pointed out by Armenian and Azeri respondents. A small part of respondents do not see any need for insurance, especially, those living in a city. We come across the above answer more often among Greek and Georgian population.

Targeted social assistance

Summary

Social security policy of Georgia is based on targeted assistance. Targeted social assistance program (which is known as “Social Assistance Program for Families Below the Poverty Line”) was introduced in Georgia after 2006. Social assistance policy lies on the principle of supplying resources by the state to extremely poor individuals that have been identified as a result of an evaluation system. Destitute families identified within the framework of targeted social assistance program are granted cash assistance and health insurance policy. Cash Assistance and health insurance create the grounds for social integration, availability of medical services and public healthcare.

There is a limited number of studies on the targeted nature of social assistance program for vulnerable families and the effects of such programs. In the above study one of the topics was to identify the level

of awareness on targeted social assistance in Kvemo Kartli population, percentage indicator of participation in the program, reasons for refusal to participate in the program, evaluations given to families and the level of satisfaction with the evaluative aspects.

As a result of the study it was revealed that one-fifths of Kvemo Kartli population has not even heard about the program above. Half of the families who were informed about the program applied for subsistence aid, which is slightly more than one-third of Kvemo Kartli entire population. Although it is true that the level of awareness about the program is low in Azeri and Armenian families, once being informed, these ethnic groups apply for the inclusion of database of vulnerable families more often than Georgian households. Georgian population states that they have no need for participation in the program, while in Azeri and Armenian households the fear of being incorrectly evaluated is a more important barrier. Despite the fact that the assistance program is implemented in the state language, the language seems to be an insignificant barrier for Kvemo Kartli population.

The families who have not applied for their inclusion in the database of vulnerable families, are not going to do so in the future either. More than a quarter of applicants in Kvemo Kartli region were not able to get social assistance, since their economic conditions were rated up to 70 001–100 000 points. Beneficiaries included in the first category (i.e. the families who received up to 57 000 points) constitute 11.3% of the interviewed population. According to Social Service Agency data, 7.4% of applicant families received the aid in Kvemo Kartli region. The difference between research results and the Social Service Agency data could be caused by various reasons: a) magnitude of error of sampling in the survey; 2) wrong information about rating score (which is supported by the fact that one-third of Kvemo Kartli population did not remember the received rating score). According to Social Service Agency, by the number of beneficiaries of subsistent aid, Kvemo Kartli region occupies the third last place in Georgia (after Tbilisi and Samtskhe-Javakheti). However, on the other hand, we need to take into account the fact that majority of Kvemo Kartli population is dissatisfied by the evaluation results of the economic profiles of their families. Azeri and Armenian families express dissatisfaction with the above more.

Social Service Agency data on targeted assistance

On the information provided by Social Service Agency, 47 103 families (i.e. 158 645 people) had been registered in the united database of vulnerable families from Kvemo Kartli region before August 2011. 19.4% out of these families received targeted social assistance (i.e. 17.1% of population). Table №N1 shows the percentage share of beneficiaries of targeted assistance according to regions in relation to registered families applying for subsistence aid and population. As it can be seen from the data, 7.4% of the entire Kvemo Kartli population received targeted assistance in Kvemo Kartli region. According to this indicator, it comes third after Tbilisi and Samtskhe-Javakheti. In relation to the number of families registered for subsistence aid, Kvemo Kartli is already on the third place after Samtskhe –Javakheti region.

Table №N1: percentage share of subsistence aid beneficiaries in relation to the registered population , according to regions ²⁶

Region/district	Percentage ratio of subsistence allowance beneficiaries to the registered population		Percentage ratio of subsistence allowance beneficiaries to the entire population	
	Family	Population	Family	Population
Tbilisi	24.3	21.2	6.6	5.0
Guria	25.6	24.4	14.3	12.1
Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	53.6	51.5	38.3	30.4
Kakheti	31.2	28.7	16.8	12.4
Imereti	30.4	29.7	15.1	12.9
Mtskheta-Mtianeti	34.1	30.2	16.8	11.2
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	20.6	21.1	9.9	8.4
Samtskhe-Javakheti	14.0	11.5	6.8	4.6
Kvemo Kartli	19.4	17.1	7.4	5.4
Shida Kartli	37.9	36.2	21.5	17.4
Ajara Autonomous Republic	19.9	20.0	9.0	8.9
Zemo Apkhazeti	45.1	38.4	18.3	13.9
Total	27.0	24.9	11.7	9.3

The first screening to distinguish the target group under survey in relation to targeted social assistance contained a question about what part of respondents had information about the existence of this program. As a result, it was revealed that 24.7% of Kvemo Kartli population had no information (had heard nothing) about the social assistance program. It is interesting to have a closer look at various characteristics of the informed respondents. As we can see from the data, more than one-third (38.4%) of population of Azeri origin, one- fifth (20.2%) of the population of Armenian origin and 16.1% of Georgian population are uninformed. We can conclude from the above results that awareness about targeted social assistance depends on the level of state language knowledge and inclusion in the social life. Significant differences have been revealed in district perspective as well: almost half (48.6%) of the population in Gardabani district and about one third (31.9%) in Tsalka are not informed about the assistance program. In other districts this indicator is by far lower and equals to one- fifth.

During the research we tried to find out if Kvemo Kartli population had adequate information about targeted social assistance. Table №N2 reflects the respondents' answers expressed in percentage. Since the respondents could mark several answers, hereby we provide the cumulative percentage indicators. As is seen from the survey results, even among the respondents claiming to have information about targeted social assistance, part of them does not have adequate information. Population that is inadequately informed, often names the provision of aids for the disabled, IDP assistance, daycare service centers for children, food supplies, etc., as forms of assistance. The share of respondents who state to have no information about the types of assistance, is low.

²⁶ Data are obtained from Social Service Agency webpage www.ssa.gov.ge (27.10.2011)

Table №N2: What type of assistance is provided on the basis of the united database of the vulnerable families? (%)

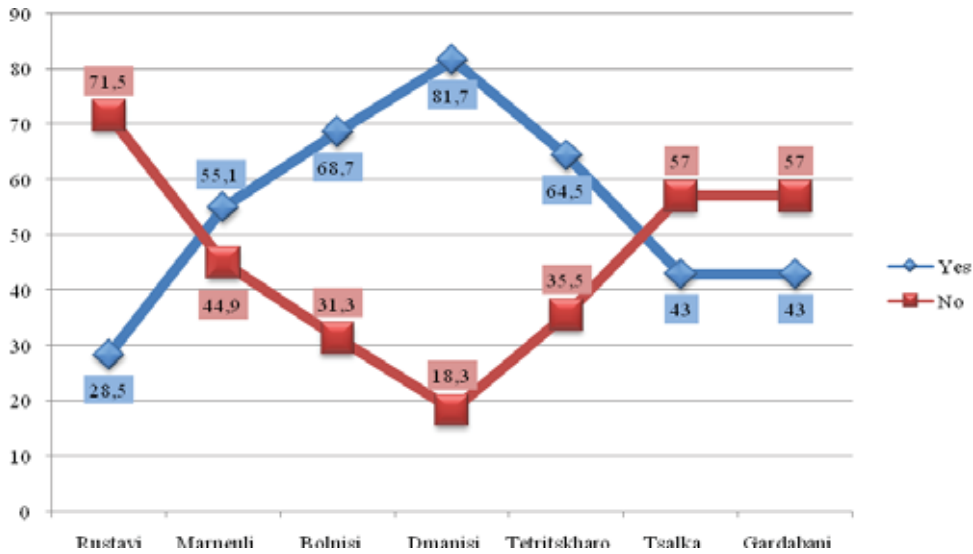
	Cumulative % indicator	% indicator
Cash social assistance	41.0	83.2
Health insurance	31.9	64.8
Aids for the disabled	5.6	11.4
Pension	4.1	8.2
IDP assistance	2.0	4.1
Free legal service	0.2	0.4
Children's daycare service centres' voucher	0.2	0.3
Benefits for payments	4.4	9.0
Transport benefits	3.3	6.8
Food aid	2.2	4.5
I don't know	4.4	9.0
Refuse to answer	0.7	1.4
Total	100	203.0

According to the research, 49.9% of the informed population of Kvemo Kartli, which is more than one-third (37.6%) of the entire population applied for the inclusion into the united database of vulnerable families. Among the applicants informed about the targeted social assistance, dominates the population of Azeri origin (66.2% of families of Azeri origin being informed about the program), followed by Armenian families (53.2% of families of Armenian origin being informed about the program) and Georgians (41.4% of families of Georgian origin being informed about the program). Graph №N1 shows % indicators of the applicants according to districts. As we can see from the data, Rustavi population applied most rarely for the inclusion into the united database of socially vulnerable families, followed by Tsalka and Gardabani. Most families requesting social protection are in Dmanisi district. Bolnisi and Tetritskharo families show high activity in getting targeted social assistance.

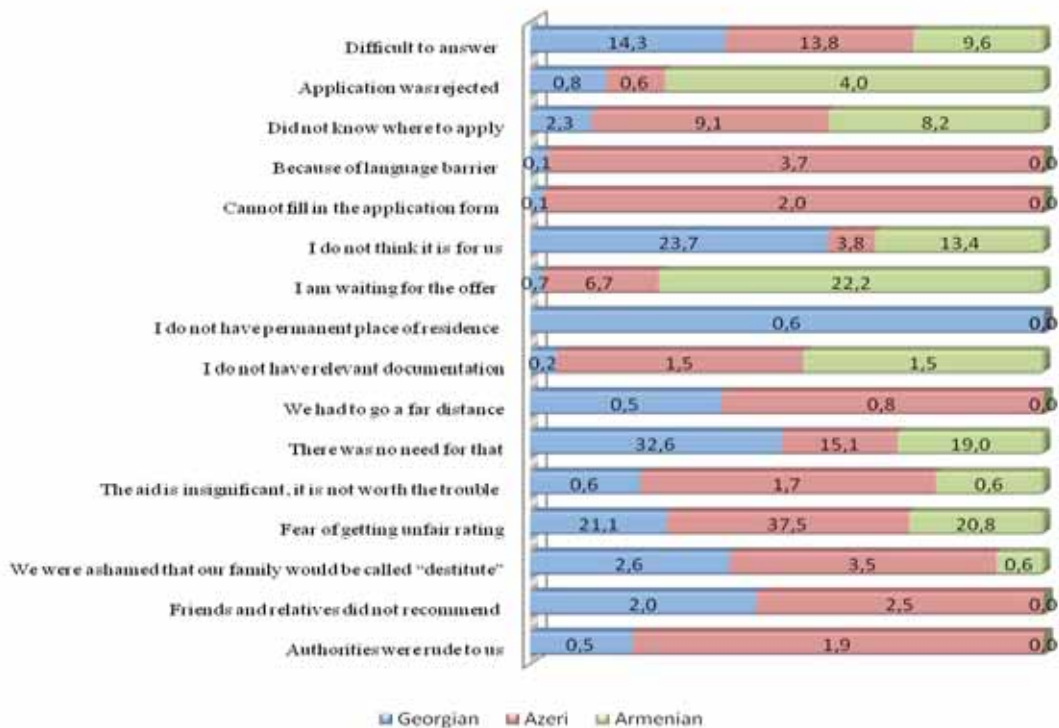
As we can see, the largest part of respondents states that their families have not applied for the inclusion into the database of socially vulnerable families. They explain the above by various reasons among which two are the most important: a) family has no need for the above (27.3%) and b) family is not eligible for the program (19%) (in the opinion of respondents, the rating score of the family will be above the poverty line). These factors were mostly mentioned by Georgian population, although they are important factors for ethnic Armenians and Azeri as well. Procedural and some other barriers have been revealed in the process of the survey. Among barriers, stereotyped opinion spread among the population that economic situation of families is not evaluated objectively, is typical (23.8% did not apply for the inclusion in the database of socially vulnerable families due to the fear of unfair evaluation) (see Graph №N2). The fear of unfair rating is especially great in the population of Azeri origin. Procedural barriers that are mostly connected with lack of information, has turned out to be an obstacle for 7% of families who have not applied. Out of them 3.1% expected the social agents to visit them and 3.9% did not know where to apply. Such unawareness is typically revealed among ethnic minorities. Specific problem for Kvemo Kartli region is the language barrier. The application form for the inclusion into the united database of vulnerable families is to be filled in Georgian language. However, it seems that this is not a significant barrier for ethnic minorities, since only 0.8% of the interviewed families,

who are mainly Azeri, refused to apply for the above reason. At the qualitative stage of the research, Kvemo Kartli municipality authorities stated that Social Service Agency staff were helping non-ethnic Georgian population with filling in the application forms. According to them, that is why no language barrier exists in this respect.

Graph №1: Did you apply/Have you applied/ for the inclusion into the united database of socially vulnerable families? (% by districts)



Graph № 2: What is the main reason of not applying for the database for families below the poverty line? (% according to ethnic perspective)



It is interesting that the majority (74.6%) of respondents who have not applied for the targeted social assistance, are not going to do so in the future either (28.2% of the entire Kvemo Kartli population). 17.5% of families who have not applied does not know whether they will apply in the future or not and 7.8% is going to apply, which constitutes 3% of the entire Kvemo Kartli population.

Within the framework of the research, we tried to determine the rating scores of families having applied for the database (see Table №N3). As we can see from results, about one third (30.1%) of respondents does not remember what rating score they were awarded. The rating score of most Kvemo Kartli households fluctuates between 70 001 and 100 000. It means these families would not have been granted either cash assistance or health insurance policy. But they might fall under the category of beneficiaries of municipal benefits. 11.3% of applicants in Kvemo Kartli, which constitutes 4.2% of the entire population got the full package of the assistance (cash assistance, health insurance policy for all family members and municipal benefits). This indicator exceeds the statistics published by Social Service Agency. This is presumably due to the fact that a large part of families does not know the exact rating score of the family reflected on the Social Service Agency website with precision.

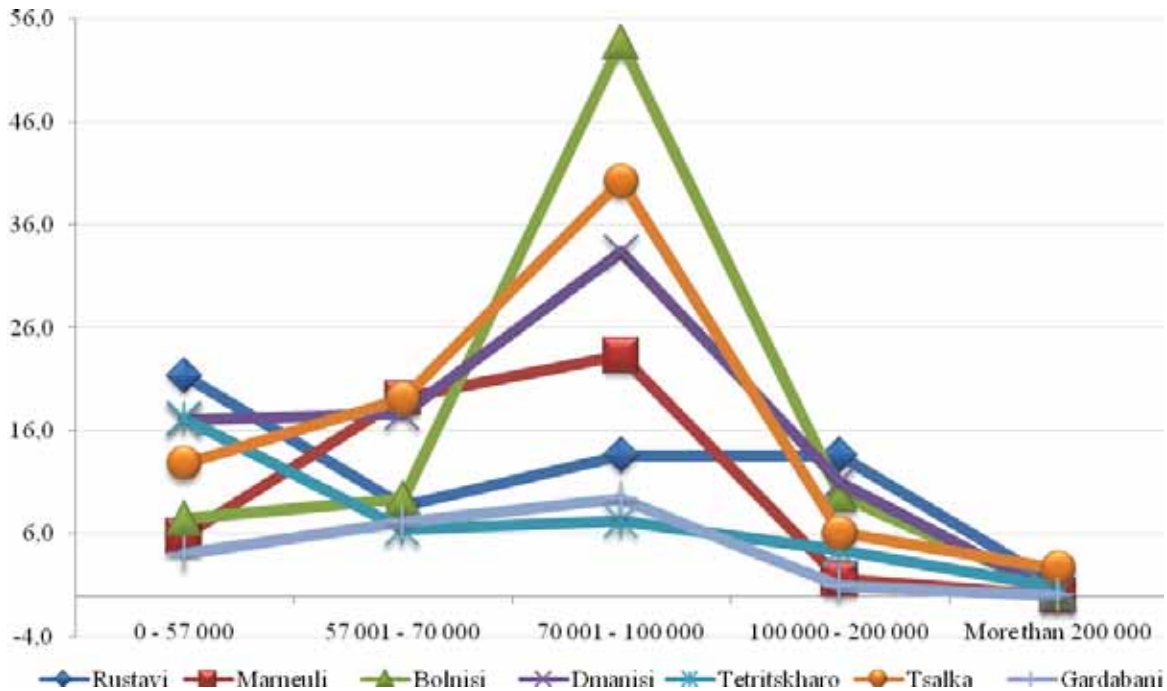
Table №3: What is your family's rating score at the moment? (%)

0 - 57 000	57 001 - 70 000	70 001 - 100 000	100 000 - 200 000	more than 200 000 –	Not counted yet	Refused to answer	Difficult to answer
11.3	12.3	27.2	6.9	0.5	7.6	4.2	30.1

It is important to look at these data according to the types of settlement. We can see that poverty is mostly concentrated in towns. 18.7% of the city inhabitants have low margin of rating (1-57 000), while in villages this indicator is 8.6%. As for the distribution of the data according to nationalities, Georgian population has low rating scores: 16.2% of Georgian households indicate to have 1-57 000 rating score, while this indicator for the population of Azeri origin is 6.2%, and for Armenian households it is 4.3%. Graph №N3 shows the distribution of poverty in district perspective. Research data show that applicants living in Rustavi often get low assessment (i.e. they are identified as vulnerable groups). However, we should note hereby that Rustavi has also got high assessments - more than 100 000 points which speaks for the fact that economic inequality is high in Rustavi population.

Research results show that most families in Kvemo Kartli region who have applied to the united database of vulnerable families are dissatisfied with the assessment made by social agents. 60.3% of the families that have been registered and awarded the rating scores consider that their economic state is lower than the assessment given by the social agent. It is interesting that in the opinion of 7.7% of vulnerable families, their economic state is higher than the assessment they got. 16.3% of the respondents consider that their economic situation corresponds to the assessment made by a social agent. 13.6% of families registered in the database had difficulty to answer and 2.1% refused to respond. According to the types of settlement, families living in rural areas are more dissatisfied with their rating scores than those living in cities. This can also be explained by the fact that the assessment was given to a larger part of city population registered in the database than in villages. As for ethnic perspective, Georgians consider the rating scores to be more objective than respondents of Azeri and Armenian origin. According to districts, Tsalka and Tetrtskhara population expressed more satisfaction.

Graph №N 3: What is your rating score at the moment? (given only percentage of rating score)



Economic development trends

Summary

Kvemo Kartli region is distinguished by being rich in natural resources and diverse economic activities where agriculture, large and small-scale industries were considerably developed. However, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, almost every branch of economy faced significant problems. Enterprises involved in Socialist economy that were linked to other Soviet Republics through raw material import-export trade, had to face serious problems. Collapse of collective and Soviet economies and privatization process should have caused the development of farming industries in the post-Soviet countries. However, this process developed in a slow and complicated way. Economic indicators of recent years in Georgia mark the rising trends. The progress has been observed in all regions including Kvemo Kartli (www.geostat.ge).

Within the research framework we studied the vision of Kvemo Kartli population on prospective economic activities for the region. Prospective viability of any given field of economy was determined in view of three factors: region's potential, qualification of the population and private and state sectors' support. The results clearly show that Kvemo Kartli population lacks a broad regional vision. Their responses, mainly are limited to the perspective of their own district. Consequently, they give an equal assessment to the importance of natural resources and qualification of local population. Rustavi inhabitants are the exception, since their assessment of the existing potential of the whole region is rather positive. Consequently, the most prospective sectors of economy named by Kvemo Kartli population were vegetable and crop growing, cattle breeding, while Rustavi population saw the

perspective in the development of metallurgy, mining industry, transit and tourism. Despite the fact that Kvemo Kartli is a border region and has transit links with neighboring countries, the population of the region does not regard this trend to be prospective. Respondents are also skeptical about the potential of tourism development. Only a small part of respondents point to support of various economic sectors by state or private enterprises.

Petroleum and gas pipeline projects (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum) were important for Kvemo Kartli region, since the pipelines directly go through this region. During the research, it turned out that these projects have had no major influence on Kvemo Kartli households. Consequently, on their assessment, these projects had a more positive impact on the region in general, than on their own families. The increase of employment rate and provision of compensations for a plot of land are perceived as positive facts. Population has scarce information about micro-loans, although part of them have used the above credits. The families who have obtained microfinance loans, mostly use the services of local organizations. The reason for getting the loan named by the population is the improvement of their living conditions, which creates doubts that under microfinance loans they generally imply bank loans and not the loans granted for business development or starting up the business.

Kvemo Kartli region has a strategic location since it is bordering with two neighboring countries of Georgia – Armenia and Azerbaijan. Absolute majority of the respondents give a positive evaluation to the development of close trade-economic relationships with neighboring countries. Besides, according to respondents' evaluation, Russian market has the most potential; export of local production to this market is named as most profitable activity. However, at the same time, it is Russian market that is named as the least accessible for import-export trade due to political tension. Turkish, Armenian and Azerbaijani markets are more or less open for trade relationships, although respondents point to certain barriers that hinder such relationships with these countries. These are high customs duties and bureaucratic problems.

While studying economic trends, we have also touched upon three programs implemented in Kvemo Kartli (“Cheap Credit Program”, “Hybrid Corn Program” and “Mechanization Program”). We have measured the level of households' involvement and reasons for not participating in these programs. “Cheap Credit Program” started operations in 2008. The aim of the program was to stimulate small and medium size businesses by providing low interest rate loans. In 2008-2009, within the above program, 64.8 m GEL was granted countrywide, while in 2010 – only 1 million GEL was assigned, and that was from Tbilisi budget²⁷. As we can see from the results of the study, one third of Kvemo Kartli population had not heard about the above program, and only 3% (that is 92 families) of Kvemo Kartli families have used the program. Non-participation in the program was mainly caused by no need of credits, lack of information and financial problems. “Hybrid Corn Program” has been implemented since 2009 with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia. The aim of the program was to increase crop yield several times by using seed of hybrid corn. As can be seen from the research results, inhabitants of

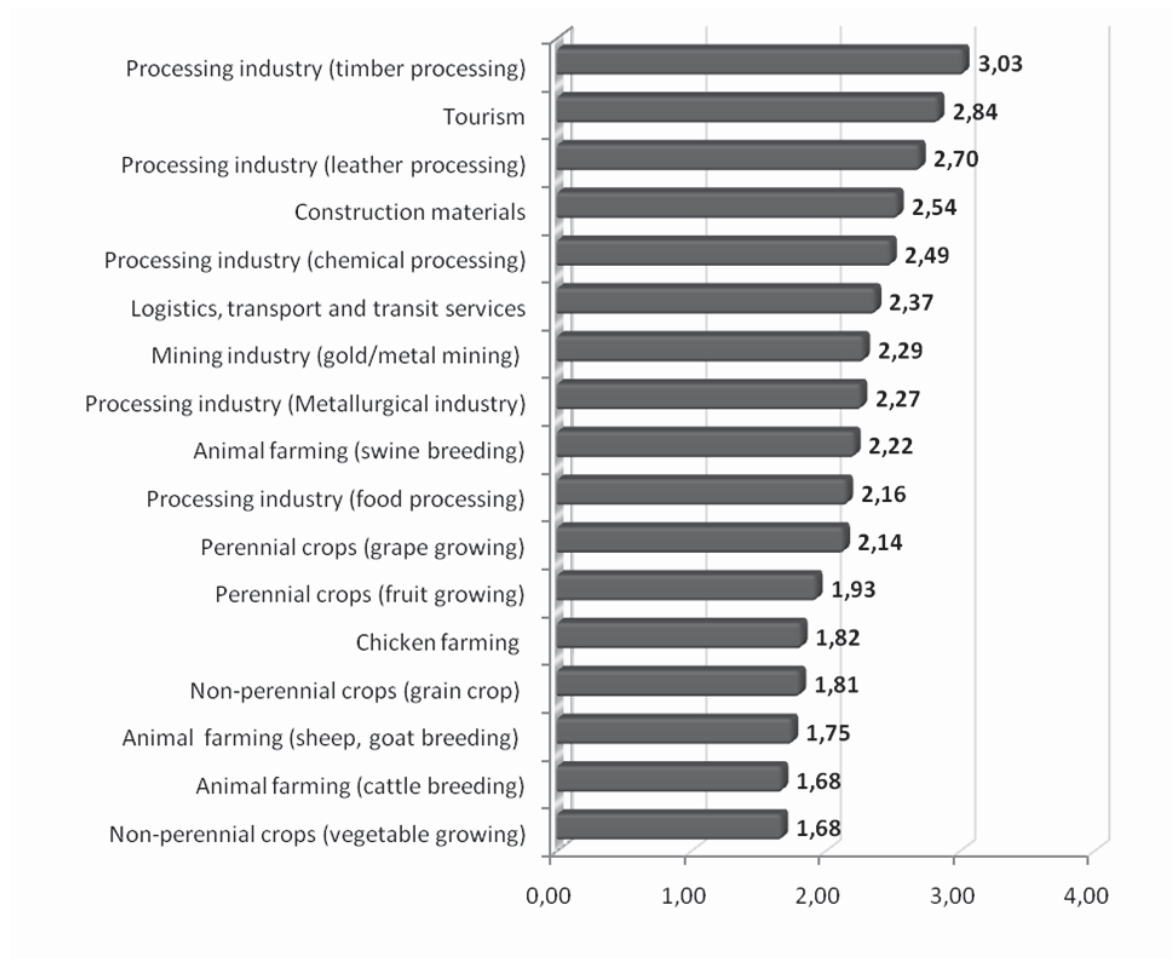
²⁷ <http://banksandfinance.ge/society/1417-iafi-kredit.html> material obtained on October 26, 2011.

Kvemo Kartli region used this program even less (2.3%, i.e. 98 families)²⁸, on the other hand, the level of awareness about the program is higher. Population explains non-participation in the program by lack of information. “Mechanization Project” has been implemented with the support of partnership funds CNFA and USAID. The aim of the project was to equip rural areas with relevant agricultural technologies. The results of the study show that only 2.1% of Kvemo Kartli population took part in the above project. The reasons for non-participation are the same as above (no need and lack of information).

Priority fields in the economic development of Kvemo Kartli region

Kvemo Kartli region is rich in natural resources. At the qualitative stage of the research, the following priority spheres have been distinguished by the population of Kvemo Kartli region. The respondents were to assess the prospects of different economic sectors on a 5 - point scale (where 1 meant “most prospective” and 5 – “least prospective”). 17 sectors have been distinguished all in all.

Graph №F1: How prospective is the development of each sector in Kvemo Kartli region (means : 5 – “most prospective” 3 – “neutral” and 1 – “least prospective”)



²⁸ In this case the percentage indicator is lower, since the percent is calculated only among inhabitants in rural settlements.

Let us consider the perspectives of development of each sector separately. The least prospective field for Kvemo Kartli development according to the population is timber industry. Rustavi and Bolnisi inhabitants consider it relatively prospective. In general, almost half (46.5%) of Kvemo Kartli population finds it difficult to determine.

Tourism is not considered a prospective field for the development of Kvemo Kartli by population either. 44.1% of respondents finds it difficult to determine the potential of the above field. In view of districts, tourism is considered the least prospective in Marneuli district (mean 1.85), while Dmanisi and Rustavi inhabitants think it has relatively better prospects (the above result can naturally be seen from the tourism potential of Dmanisi district, since Dmanisi inhabitants are most informed about it themselves).

Survey results show that processing industries, namely leather processing is less perspective (compared to other fields of industry). Almost half of the population in the region cannot evaluate the potential of this field. The importance of leather production is positively assessed in Rustavi and Tsalka.

Kvemo Kartli inhabitants attach less importance to construction materials. 43.6% abstain from evaluating this field. As for districts, the field is considered relatively prospective in Tsalka (mean 4.21), and in Marneuli – it is considered less prospective (mean 2.32).

Potential of processing industry, namely chemical processing, comes 13th among 17 fields. 47.5% cannot evaluate the perspective of this field. Sub-regional differences are also revealed here, which is conditioned by the level of experience and awareness in the field. Consequently, chemical industry is considered most prospective in Rustavi (mean - 4.6) while other districts do not share this opinion.

Logistics, transport and transit services come 12th in view of Kvemo Kartli development perspective. 47.6% does not give evaluation to this field. Rustavi and Tsalka population consider the field prospective taking into account strategic location of Kvemo Kartli, which is insignificantly revealed among the respondents of other districts.

In terms of potential, mining industry, namely gold and other metal mining industries is on the 11th place. 44% of respondents cannot assess the perspective of the field. As was expected, this field is considered prospective more by Rustavi and Bolnisi inhabitants.

Processing industry, in particular metallurgical and metal ware production comes 10th. Rustavi population realizes its importance especially well (which is natural, taking into account the traditions of metallurgical industry in Rustavi). However, other districts in the region do not recognize the potential of this field (in total, 43.6% cannot evaluate the importance of the field for the region).

Animal farming, in particular swine breeding, occupies the 9th place. A quarter (26%) of respondents cannot evaluate the perspective of the field. Swine breeding is considered especially prospective in Tsalka and Tetrtskharo, while in Marneuli district it is considered quite non-perspective (it is very likely that this is due to the fact that Marneuli district is predominantly populated by Moslem Azeri population).

Processing industry, such as food processing – canning industry, is considered to be more or less prospective for Kvemo Kartli development. 39% finds it difficult to determine its perspective. In Tsalka and Rustavi it is considered especially prospective.

Perennial crops, especially grape growing, is on the 7th place among others. One fifth (20.4%) of respondents finds it difficult to determine its perspective. The field is considered especially prospective in Marneuli and Bolnisi which is not shared at all by Tsalka inhabitants due to the climate conditions there.

Fruit growing is considered important for the economic development of Kvemo Kartli region. Relatively small part of respondents (17.2%) cannot evaluate the perspective of this field. It is especially positively assessed in Rustavi and Marneuli.

Chicken farming occupies the fifth place in terms of having potential. However, a quarter (24.2%) of the interviewed finds it difficult to assess. In Rustavi, Marneuli, Tsalka and Tetrtskhara this field is considered especially important.

Non-perennial crops, in particular grain crop production occupies the fourth place. This factor cannot be evaluated by one-fifth of the interviewed (19.3%). Apart from Dmanisi district, this field is considered very prospective elsewhere.

Animal farming, namely sheep and goat breeding is named as the third most prospective field by respondents in Kvemo Kartli region. This factor is considered important by four-fifths of the respondents. Except for Dmanisi and Bolnisi, the field is considered prospective in other districts.

Among economic fields, cattle breeding occupies the second place as the most prospective. 18.4% of respondents cannot evaluate its potential. In this case, similar to cattle breeding, it is considered relatively least prospective by Dmanisi and Bolnisi population.

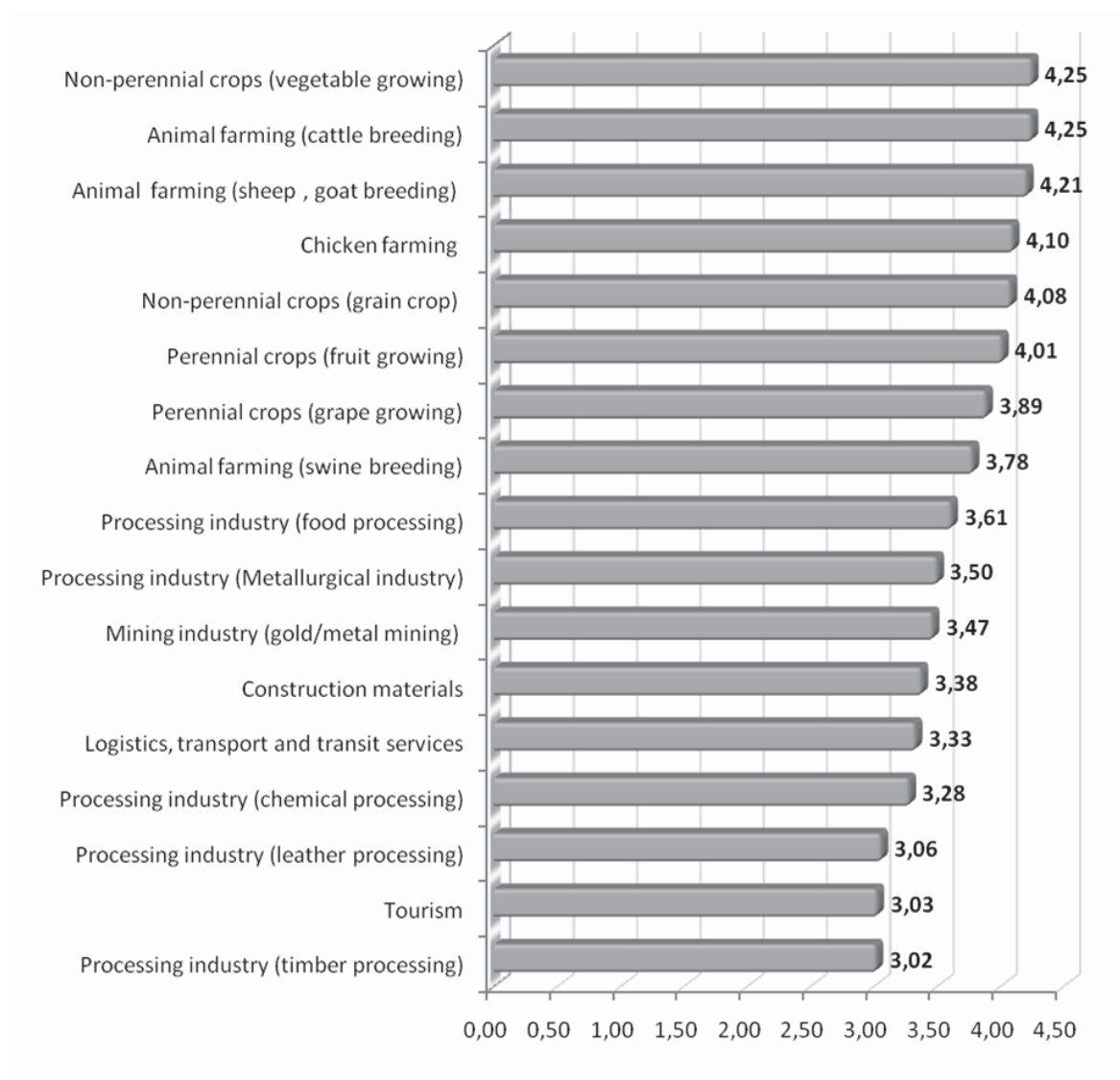
Most prospective field for Kvemo Kartli economic development is named non-perennial crops, in particular, vegetable growing. 16.9% does not give any evaluation to the above field. All districts except Dmanisi and Tetrtskhara share this position.

Apart from resources, it is important that population has qualified operational skills for the development of this or that field of economy. In the survey we tried to find out whether the inhabitants in Kvemo Kartli had necessary skills for the development of the above listed 17 fields. Graph №F2 reflects the means of skills and qualifications of the population necessary for the development of each field (qualification was being assessed on a 5-point scale, where 1 meant “no qualification at all” and 5- “very high qualification”).

The results show that respondents characterize qualification of the population necessary for the development of any given field of economy with the same tendency as they do regarding their perspective of these fields. In this case too, respondents consider that Kvemo Kartli population is mostly qualified in cattle breeding, sheep and goat breeding, vegetable growing, while the qualification is the lowest in tourism development, leather and timber processing industries.

The results also show that respondents positively evaluate the qualification of Kvemo Kartli population in those fields that are more or less developed in their own districts.

Graph №F2: Means of the assessment of the population’s skills and qualification necessary for the development of each field (1 meaning “ no qualification at all” and 5 – “very high qualification”)



From the data above, we can see that it is difficult to speak about the development of one particular field of economy in Kvemo Kartli. Economic fields should develop according to the principle of differentiation taking into account the resources of the district as well as qualification level of the population, which to a certain extent is predetermined by historical development of any given field.

For the development of economic fields, it is necessary to find out how much it is supported by the state and if private investments are made in any of these sectors. Table №F1 reflects the population’s attitude towards these issues. As a rule, majority of population finds it difficult to evaluate the state support of the development of economic sectors in Kvemo Kartli region. As for private investments made in different fields of economy, population has little information about it. Majority of respondents that are informed about state funding of any of the fields indicates that the state support is more likely to exist than not. In respondents’ opinion, the state subsidizes mostly grain crop production (a quarter of the

interviewed – 24.5% indicates the above), followed by vegetable growing (18.8%), construction materials (18%), timber processing (17.6%), perennial crops (fruit growing) (17.2%). The least subsidized fields of economy, according to respondents, are chemical industry, leather processing and production and metallurgical industry.

The interviewed population of Kvemo Kartli considers that there are less private investments than state subsidies. The fields in which private investments compete against state subsidies include metallurgical industry, food production and animal farming (cattle breeding).

Table № F1: Is there any state support or are any private investments made for the development of each field? (%)

Fields of economy	State support			Private investments		
	Yes	No	Diffic . to ans.	Yes	No	Diffic . to ans.
Non-perennial crops (grain crop)	24.5	26.2	49.3	12.0	20.5	67.5
Non-perennial crops (vegetable growing)	18.8	23.5	57.7	11.8	23.4	64.8
Perennial crops (fruit growing)	17.2	31.7	51.2	11.0	19.9	69.0
Perennial crops (grape growing);	16.8	24.3	58.9	13.4	23.8	62.8
Animal farming (cattle breeding)	14.4	33.1	47.5	15.6	17.7	66.7
Animal farming (sheep , goat breeding)	16.3	24.3	59.5	10.2	23.8	66.0
Animal farming (swine breeding)	16.0	31.0	53.0	10.4	19.6	70.0
Chicken farming	14.6	25.3	60.1	12.1	23.6	64.3
Mining industry (gold/metal mining)	14.5	32.8	52.7	13.0	20.0	67.0
Mining industry (construction materials	18.0	22.7	59.3	12.6	23.7	63.6
Processing industry (Food production canned products, milk and dairy products)	13.6	33.5	52.8	14.1	19.5	66.3
Processing industry (timber processing)	17.6	23.2	59.2	9.6	24.9	65.6
Processing industry (chemical processing)	11.1	34.1	54.8	9.5	20.5	69.9
Processing industry (metallurgical industry and metal ware production)	0	25.4	60.6	17.6	22.3	60.1
Processing industry (leather processing)	11.2	34.4	54.4	9.9	22.2	68.0
Tourism	16.7	24.2	40.8	14.9	21.0	64.1
Logistics, transport and transit services; with neighboring countries	15.6	20.9	63.5	11.2	19.0	69.7

Petroleum pipeline

Petroleum and gas pipeline projects (Baku –Tbilisi–Ceyhan and Baku – Tbilisi –Erzurum) were very important for Kvemo Kartli region, since the pipelines passed through the region. While doing the research, we tried to find out the population’s attitude towards these projects. In the first place, the population was to evaluate whether the projects have improved their families’ economic situation. The results have shown that the projects have had no impact on the economic state of more than two-thirds of families (76.3%). This is logical, since only those families got economic benefits on whose plot of land the pipelines went through, as they were given compensation. Consequently, only 1.5 % of respondents note that the economic conditions of their households has significantly improved, and 3.1% indicates that their economic situation has partly improved. According to the representatives of non-governmental sector, the economic effect of these projects for the population that received

compensation for the plot of land was instant; as they say, the compensation sum was small and there were restrictions on the use of the plot of land adjacent to pipelines, the negative economic effects of which the population will feel more severely in the future. Although only an insignificant part of the interviewed (0.7%) indicates deterioration of the economic situation due to the implementation of petroleum and gas pipeline projects. 18.4% of respondents finds it difficult to say what effect the above project has had on their economic conditions.

A large part of Kvemo Kartli population (41.0%) finds it difficult to estimate whether Baku –Tbilisi –Ceyhan and Baku – Tbilisi –Erzurum projects have had any effect not personally on their families but on Kvemo Kartli region’s economic situation. More than a quarter of respondents (28%) considers that the projects have had no effect on the economy of the region. 30.4% indicates the positive effect of petroleum and gas pipeline projects. At the qualitative stage of research, during the meetings with Kvemo Kartli Municipality representatives, we learned that petroleum and gas pipeline projects had actually no significant economic benefit for the region, since the finances derived from the project mainly go to the state budget. As a result of comparing economic benefits of petroleum and gas pipeline projects for families and for the region, we learned that population considers the projects to have more positive impact on Kvemo Kartli region than on their families.

The respondents were to state whether the petroleum and gas pipeline projects had any impact on Kvemo Kartli region and what the impact was (positive or negative). As Table №F2 shows, 42.5% of respondents find it difficult to estimate the impact of the above projects. The respondents, who were informed about the impact of these projects, mainly indicate their positive impact. Most frequently mentioned factors are: the increase of employment (23.3%), followed by compensations paid out to the population (13.7%) and improvement of infrastructure (8.6%). 5.2% of respondents name the increase in budget revenues as positive effect. 1.7% of respondents indicate the increase of security as a result of implementation petroleum and gas pipeline projects. Very few respondents point out the negative side of petroleum and gas pipeline projects (in total 4.9% of responses), they mainly specify the threat of ecological disaster, losing parcels of land around their houses, restriction of construction works in the proximity of petroleum pipeline and the increased physical threat due to petroleum and gas pipeline projects. However, as we have noted above, the share of negative effects in total responses is minimal.

Table №F2: What was the impact of petroleum and gas pipeline projects on Kvemo Kartli region? (%)

Positive and negative impact of petroleum and gas pipeline projects on Kvemo Kartli region	% indicators
Compensation, petroleum/gas pipelines passed through the plot of land	13.7%
Increase of employment	23.3%
Infrastructure improvement	8.6%
Increase in budget revenues	5.2%
Increase of the level of security in the region	1.7%
Increase of the threat of ecological disasters	1.8%
Population lost plots of land around their houses	1.7%
Population was banned to carry out any construction works in the proximity of petroleum pipeline	0.7%
Security of Kvemo Kartli region became under threat	0.7%
Difficult to answer	42.5%

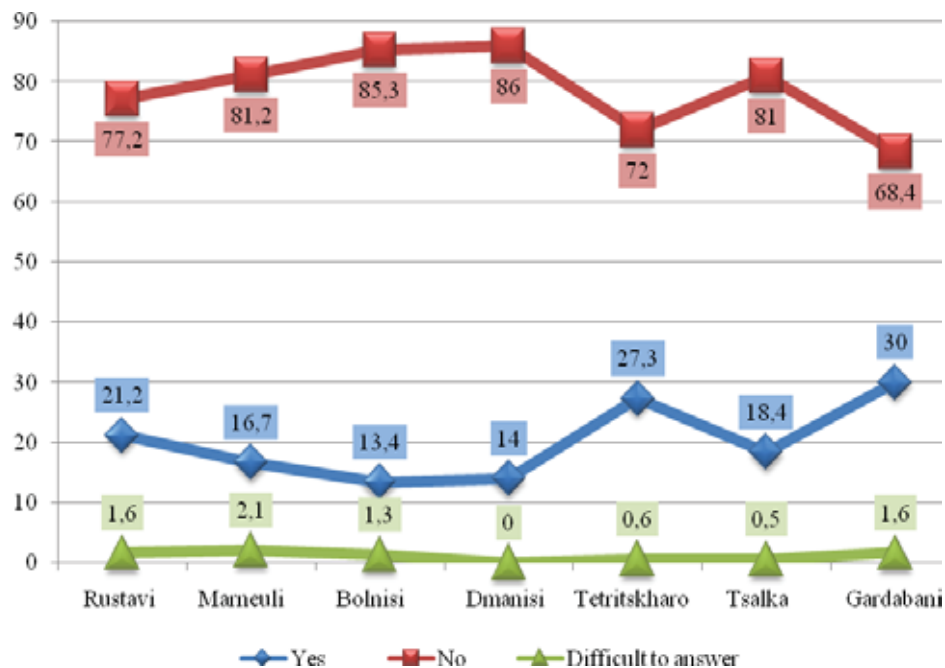
Microfinance loans

Providing Georgian citizens and organizations with microfinance loans aims to support small and medium business development via micro credit services. There are several micro financial organizations functioning in Kvemo Kartli region. The survey findings have revealed that almost half of the population has not heard of micro business loans (43% -“I have not heard” 3.6% - “It is difficult to answer”). Majority (83%) of that half of respondents who were aware of micro business loans state that microfinance organizations are functioning in their town/district. According to district perspective, we come across minor differences: Tetrtskharo (68.8%) and Gardabani (71.4%) district inhabitants specify the existence of microfinance organizations in their districts least of all, while the respondents informed about microfinance loans in Bolnisi (94.7%) and Dmanisi (91.9%) indicate the existence of such organizations more.

Out of respondents informed about microfinance loans, 20.4% had attempts of getting a micro credit. Graph №F3 shows the indicators of obtaining a micro credit in district perspective. The results show that relatively lower indicator of getting the loan is in Dmanisi and Bolnisi districts.

Almost one-third of the population informed about micro credits has attempted to get the loan in Gardabani, more than a quarter – in Tetrtskharo and one-fifth -in Rustavi. According to ethnic perspective, small differences have been revealed. 90.6% of Armenian and 86.6% of Azeri population that are informed about the microfinance loans obtain the credit least of all, while this indicator among Georgian population is 75.3%. Obtaining microfinance loans is connected with the level of awareness of the population, the language in which microfinance organizations operate and the level of small and medium size business activities of each ethnic group.

Graph №F3: Have you or any of your family members attempted to obtain a microfinance loan? (% according to districts)



It is important to find out where Kvemo Kartli population tried to obtain the loan (see Table №F3). 66.2% of population tries to get a loan near their place of residence. Most respondents from Rustavi tried to get the micro credit in their town (80.6%) which is due to the fact that in the regional center there are more microfinance organizations offering a wide choice to clients. A small group of respondents having taken out the loan from Marneuli tried to get the loan in Marneuli. 40.4% of Dmanisi inhabitants having taken out the loan tried to get it in other districts of Kvemo Kartli. More than half of loan takers from Tsalka tried to get a loan in another district of Kvemo Kartli region. In Tbilisi, mainly Tetrtskharo and Gardabani inhabitants tried to take out a loan. An insignificant part of Kvemo Kartli inhabitants tried to get the microfinance loan in another region of Georgia, and nobody has tried to get a loan abroad.

Table №F3: Where have you applied for the microfinance organization/bank to get a credit? (%)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetrtskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	General
In my district/town	80.6	79.9	56.8	41.6	31.8	31.2	71.3	66.2
In another district/town of Kvemo Kartli region	4.5	11.9	23.0	40.4	31.8	60.2	5.5	14.8
In Tbilisi	6.0	0	10.1	0	36.5	8.6	23.2	13.0
In another region of Georgia	1.5	4.1	5.0	13.5	0	0	0	2.0
Refused to respond	7.5	4.0	5.0	4.5	0	0	0	4.0

Respondents, whose families have tried to get a microfinance loan answered the question about the purpose of applying for the loan. 17.4% needed the micro credit to expand the business and 14.1% - to start a new business. It is typical, that families are trying to get the loan most often when they have already started the business. This means that Kvemo Kartli inhabitants avoid getting a loan for starting a new business. 61.5% of respondents say that they wanted to get a loan to improve their life conditions (buy a house, furniture, household appliances, etc.). It is quite possible that these respondents mixed the microfinance loans up with other bank loans or they were trying to improve their conditions by means of microfinance loans. This allows us to suppose that even those respondents who considered themselves being aware of the above, have no adequate information about the issue.

In the process of our studies we found out what size of microfinance loan Kvemo Kartli inhabitants were trying to obtain. 29.3% of applicants for the loan asked for up to 1 000 GEL. 28.1% of the interviewed tried to get from 1001 to 2000 GEL microfinance loan. A quarter of applicants (24.5) asked for 2001-to 5000 GEL and 9.1% of respondents tried to obtain more than 5001GEL.

In Tsalka and Bolnisi the request on the loan was relatively high (2000 GEL and more), while in Dmanisi and Rustavi they asked for the micro credit of up to 2000 GEL. It is typical that respondents who needed the loan to improve their living conditions, asked for smaller loans than the families who needed the sum for starting or developing the business.

It is interesting to see the results of attempts of getting microfinance loans (see Table №F4). According to the Table, the attempts of Kvemo Kartli inhabitants who applied for microfinance loans ended with a positive result. Marneuli and Dmanisi district inhabitants were most satisfied. Only 8.7% was refused to be grant the microfinance loan mostly in Tsalka, Gardabani and Bolnisi districts.

Table №F4: have you obtained the microfinance loan? (% according to district perspective)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	General
Obtained fully	75.8	87.7	72.8	82.0	67.1	71.4	71.3	74.7
Obtained but less than required	4.5	12.3	9.9	9.0	17.6	11.5	7.7	8.8
Could not obtain	6.1	0	10.0	4.5	10.6	17.2	15.1	8.7
Waiting for the response	3.0	0	4.9	4.5	0	0	1.9	2.2
Difficult to answer	10.6	0	2.5	0	4.7	0	3.9	5.6

Although only 8.8% could not take out a micro credit and 8.7% of applicants got only a small amount, we still tried to find out why those applicants had been refused to satisfy their request fully or partially. Almost half (43.6%) of respondents claim that they were turned down for not having a collateral; one fifth (19.2%) does not know the reason for refusal and 6.5% state that they have not received any justified response. According to 9.6% of respondents, their proposal was not approved and 7.1% presented incomplete documentation.

The respondents who obtained microfinance loan were to indicate what barriers they faced in obtaining the loan. Most of them (86.6%) claim facing no serious barriers in the process of obtaining microfinance loan. Insignificant number of respondents name the distance of microfinance organizations (1.5%) or say that without connections, it is impossible to get the loan (2.7%).

During the research, we asked respondents if the micro credit had been of any help in achieving their aims. As it can be seen from Table №F5, the loan had a positive result for the families of respondents (it helped significantly achieve the aim in 46.4% of the interviewed and helped partially 30.9% of them). For 9% of the interviewed the credit was not helpful and 5.1% finds it difficult to estimate the effect of the loan on their activity. The important fact is that 8.6 % of those who obtained the loan consider, that the credit disrupted the implementation of their goals. Negative effect is mostly mentioned by Rustavi and Gardabani respondents. This might be caused by the high interest rate on the loan which turned out to be a significant barrier for these families. Most positive estimation of the loan effect is observed in Marneuli and Dmanisi.

Table №F5: Has the microfinance loan helped you to achieve your goals? (% according to districts)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	General
Helped significantly	22.2	65.2	57.2	60.4	43.4	55.0	29.0	46.4
Helped partially	11.1	0	0	4.7	3.8	0	13.2	30.9
Did not help	11.1	4.3	2.8	0	0	0	2.6	9.0
Disrupted	6.7	0	5.6	4.7	0	0	7.9	8.6
Difficult to answer	38.5	3.1	3.2	21.1	11.7	4.1	10.5	5.1

Trade relationships with neighboring countries

Kvemo Kartli region has a strategic location, since it is bordering with two neighboring countries of Georgia – Armenia and Azerbaijan. Consequently, trade relationships with neighboring countries will be favorable for the economic development of Kvemo Kartli region. At the first stage of the research we asked the respondents how beneficial would close contacts of local population with the markets of neighboring countries be for Kvemo Kartli economic development. Not a single respondent mentioned that close contact with the markets of neighboring countries would not be beneficial. 16.6% finds it difficult to estimate, 72.9% considers this relationship beneficial and 10.6% of respondents say that such relations are more or less beneficial. Despite the fact that Kvemo Kartli population has a positive attitude to having close relationships with neighboring countries' markets, some slight differences have still been observed. Most positively disposition is revealed in Rustavi inhabitants and relatively less positive compared to other settlements – in Gardabani.

One of the indicators of close relationship with neighboring countries is import-export potential. During the survey we tried to find out how much it was possible for the inhabitants of Kvemo Kartli region to export local production to neighboring countries. The respondents were to give their estimates on the possibilities of export to four neighboring countries (Azerbaijan, Turkey, Russia and Armenia) on a 5-point scale (with 5- meaning “totally accessible” and 1 – “totally inaccessible”) (see Table N F6).

Table N^oF6: How accessible are the neighboring countries' markets for the realization of local products? (%)

	Totally accessible	Rather accessible	Neither accessible nor inaccessible	Rather not accessible	Totally inaccessible	Difficult to respond
Azerbaijan	16.1	10.7	7.0	8.3	17.9	39.9
Turkey	13.3	10.0	7.1	7.7	18.0	43.9
Russia	6.4	3.2	5.4	10.2	27.3	47.6
Armenia	13.3	9.2	6.3	6.3	18.0	46.9

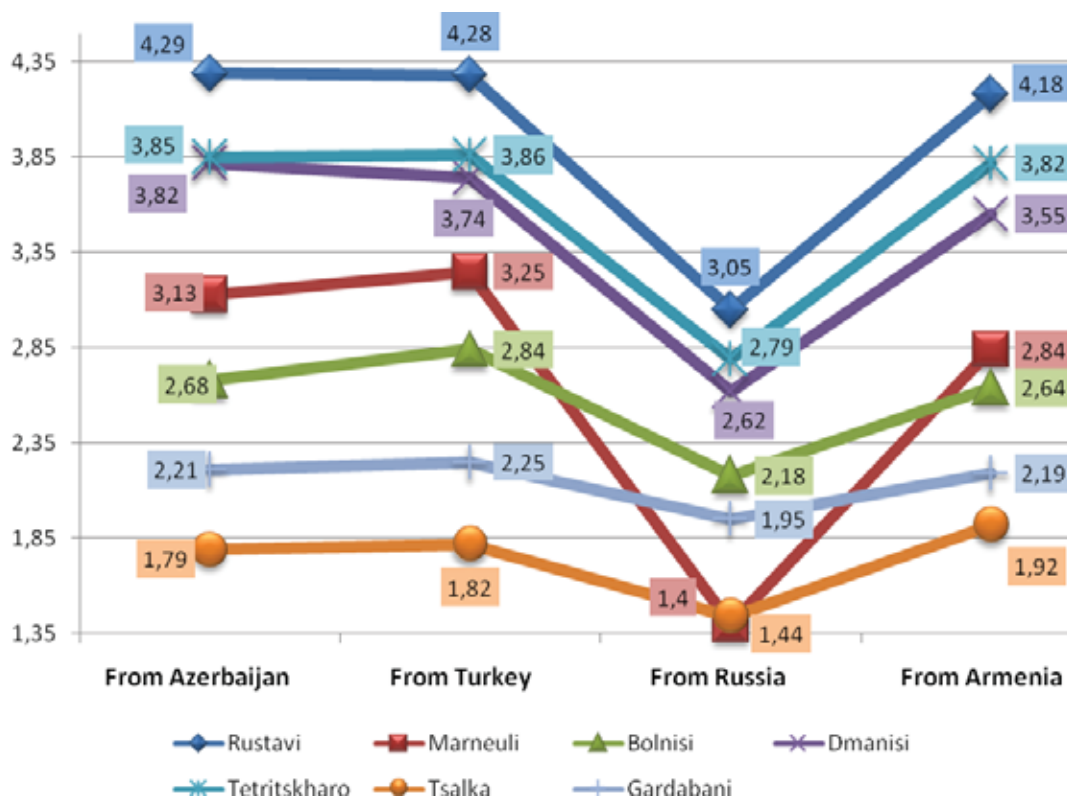
We can see from the survey results that quite a large part finds it difficult to respond how accessible it is to export local production to neighboring countries. Such assessment especially refers to the potential of the export to Russia and Armenia. When analyzing the data, we took ethnicity into account. Respondents based their answers to the above question mainly on the experience of their friends or people they knew. Besides, the fact that Azeri population cannot often estimate the export potential of local products to Armenia, can be explained by the existing ethnic tension and vice versa, ethnic Armenians cannot estimate the accessibility to the import in Azerbaijan.

Among four countries listed below, in the opinion of respondents, local production export is most accessible in Azerbaijan, followed by Turkey and Armenia. Against the background of current political tension, it is natural that only 9.6% of respondents considers it possible to export to Russia. Graph N^oF4

shows that mean accessibility indicator in the case of Russia is very close to 1 (i.e. “totally inaccessible”). Regardless the country of export destination, more inaccessibility of production export is stated by Tsalka and Gardabani district inhabitants, while Rustavi and Dmanisi inhabitants estimate export potential more positively.

During the survey, the respondents who spoke about the inaccessibility of export markets were to specify the barriers in selling local production in neighboring countries (see table №F7). One fifth of the respondents finds it difficult to name the specific cause. Most frequently named barrier for export is high customs duties. In this case Bolnisi population specifies the above more often. At the qualitative stage of the research, local authorities pointed out that customs duties were not actually high. The main problem was that before the “Rose Revolution”, it was customary to pay unofficial duties. After the “Rose Revolution”, customs duties are to be paid only officially but local population has some fearful attitude to formal payment and estimates it as being a high rate. Bureaucracy also plays the role here, since the formal procedures often seem difficult to the local population. That is why, population considers bureaucratic problems at the customs the second significant barrier for exporting their products (all in all 19.2% specifies the above factor).

Graph №F4: How accessible are the neighboring countries’ markets for Kvemo Kartli population to export local production (means according to districts: 5 – means “Totally accessible”, 1- “Totally inaccessible”)



Those people indicating the inaccessibility of Russian market for exporting local products state that the reason for the above is the closed border or political tension. This issue is a significant barrier which means that Georgian-Russian relationships have had a negative effect on the economic activities of the population. A small part of respondents (6.4%) considers that they are asked to pay additional sum at the customs informally. This issue is especially emphasized in Marneuli and Bolnisi. 3.1% of the interviewed considers that the product registration at the customs is performed incorrectly (most often the above barrier is mentioned by Rustavi inhabitants). A small number of respondents name product scarcity as one of the problem (no products are left for export), high transport costs, poor mobilization of people and the lack of a single economic basis with neighboring countries.

Table №F7: Why are the neighboring countries' markets inaccessible for Kvemo Kartli population to sell local products? (% according to districts)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	General
High customs duty	45.5	26.9	75.9	57.0	44.5	83.1	31.3	45.8
Bureaucracy at the customs	9.6	4.5	22.1	13.5	23.3	20.9	40.9	19.8
Incorrect product registration procedure at the customs	7.8	0.6	5.4	4.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	3.1
Additional payment required at customs informally	0.0	20.4	13.4	2.8	0.7	8.2	0.4	6.4
High transport cost	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.9	5.5	0.0	0.8	0.7
Border is closed	3.0	59.0	0.7	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.4	12.2
Political tension	19.8	3.9	1.3	0.0	14.4	0.9	6.9	8.7
Not enough products left for export	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.9	6.8	0.5	8.3	2.6
People are not mobilized	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1
No single economic basis exists	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Difficult to answer	25.1	5.8	6.7	24.9	13.0	8.2	13.6	22.3

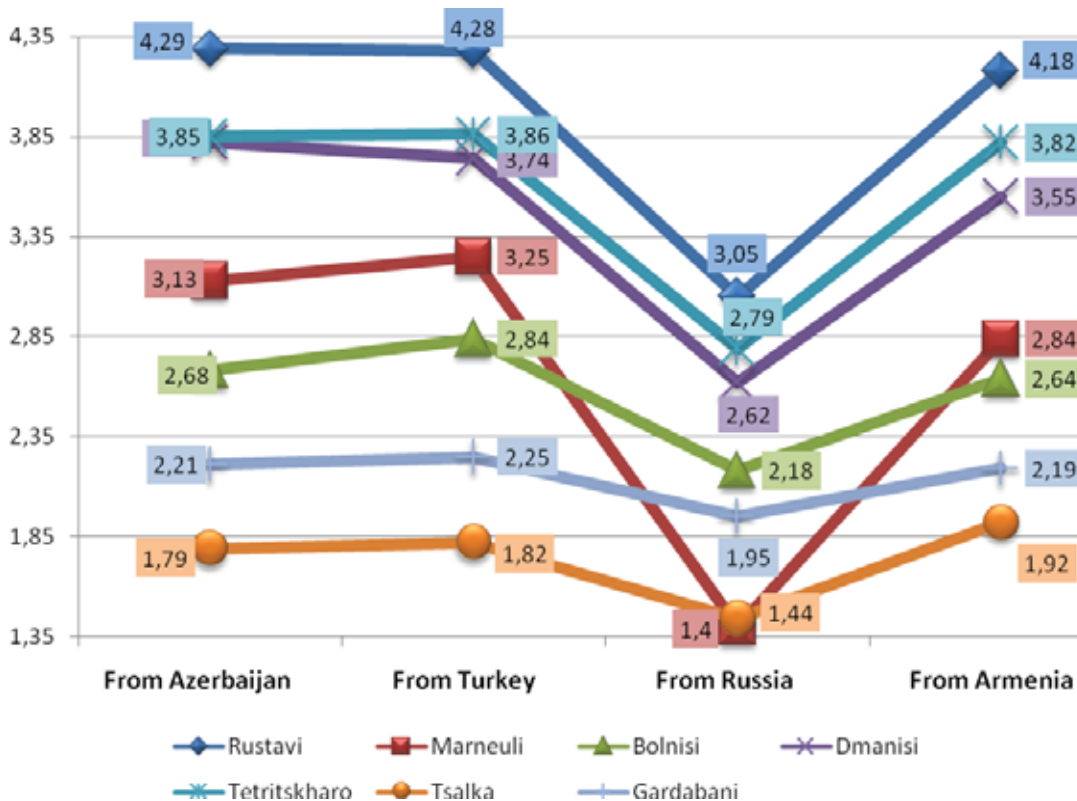
Apart from export of production, the respondents were to also estimate the import potential from neighboring countries. If we take means as a starting point, we will see that according to respondents, import of products is more accessible than export. Regarding this issue the number of respondents who find it difficult to answer is again high. Responses to import are similar to the ones to export. In this case too, ethnic Armenians find it more difficult to estimate import potential from Azerbaijan and vice versa. Among four neighboring countries, most restricted is import from Russia, for the same reason of political tension. As for the import from other three countries, it is considered equally accessible, although, we should take into account that one-fifth of the respondents considers trade relationships with these countries impossible.

Table №F8: How accessible is it for Kvemo Kartli population to import products from neighboring countries? (%)

	Fully accessible	Rather accessible	Neither accessible, nor inaccessible	Rather inaccessible	Totally inaccessible	Difficult to answer
Azerbaijan	19.8	14.4	4.4	7.9	13.9	39.7
Turkey	19.6	14.6	4.2	7.0	13.1	41.4
Russia	8.4	5.4	4.0	11.3	22.8	48.0
Armenia	16.6	12.0	4.1	6.1	13.7	47.5

Graph №F5 shows that Russia is again the most restricted neighboring country for economic activities. Import of products is most accessible for Rustavi and Dmanisi. Tsalka and Gardabani population again often mention that the import from neighboring countries is restricted for region inhabitants.

Graph №F5: How accessible is it to import products from neighboring countries? (means according to district perspective) (with 5 meaning “Totally accessible”, 1 – “Totally inaccessible”).



Respondents were to name the barriers which hindered the import of products from neighboring countries (see Table №F9). The barriers specified by respondents are similar to the ones they named for export. In the first place they name high customs duty. The barrier is especially specified by Tsalka, Dmanisi and Bolnisi inhabitants. The next problem named was bureaucracy - most often by Gardabani and Tetrtskharo districts. The respondents who specify the inaccessibility of import from Russia explain it by closed borders and political tension. The indicator of unofficial payments at customs is lower in the case of import, which means that mainly customs of neighboring countries ask for bribe. 11.1% of Kvemo Kartli population makes no mention of barriers for import activities.

Table №F9: Why is it inaccessible for Kvemo Kartli population to import products from neighboring countries? (% according to district perspective).

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetrtskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	General
High customs duty	42.5	39.1	75.2	71.3	35.2	88.6	35.2	49.3
Bureaucracy at the customs	17.0	1.9	18.6	15.7	33.0	20.6	41.5	20.7
Incorrect product registration procedure at the customs	7.2	0.0	6.2	5.3	0.0	0.5	0.5	3.1
Additional payment required at customs informally	0.7	5.6	18.6	1.1	2.2	7.3	0.0	4.6
High transport cost	4.6	0.0	0.0	3.0	6.6	0.0	1.0	1.8
Border is closed	3.3	63.2	1.4	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	14.2
Political tension	16.3	5.1	1.4	1.1	24.2	0.9	8.0	8.5
Due to political monopoly	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.1
No single economic basis exists	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Difficult to answer	20.9	1.3	4.9	11.5	6.6	6.0	15.3	11.1

Apart from general assessment of the accessibility to the markets of neighboring countries, we were trying to identify strategically profitable commodity for export-import activities from Kvemo Kartli region. We presented 11 different types of products and the respondents were to name which product would be profitable for Kvemo Kartli region to import from four neighboring countries (Azerbaijan, Turkey, Russia, Armenia). Answers were open, which allowed the respondents not to choose some of the products (see Table №F10). As the survey results show, most part of the population is skeptical about import of products from neighboring countries, i.e. majority of them did not name any of the countries. Respondents mostly support the import of shoes and clothes (18.1%) and as for the country, they name Turkey. 16.4% specified the import of fuel and in this case the importing country is Azerbaijan. The least supported products for import are timber, construction materials and furniture (less than 10% supports the above products).

Table №F10: Which product is profitable for Kvemo Kartli population to import from neighboring countries listed below? (%)

Type of product	Azerbaijan	Turkey	Russia	Armenia	No response
Vegetables	5.4	2.2	1.8	1.6	89.0
Fruit	4.2	2.6	1.3	2.2	89.7
Milk and dairy products	2.6	2.3	2.3	1.9	90.9
Other food stuff	3.4	3.3	3.7	1.8	87.8
Clothes/shoes	3.6	10.1	2.9	1.5	81.9
Articles of prime necessity	3.0	5.0	2.9	1.4	87.7
Consumer goods	3.0	3.8	2.6	1.7	89.1
Furniture	2.3	3.9	2.2	1.0	90.6
Household appliances	2.5	5.2	2.6	1.0	88.7
Fuel	11.7	1.4	2.5	0.7	83.6
Timber and building materials	2.1	1.4	2.8	1.1	92.6

Apart from importing products, we also asked Kvemo Kartli population in this survey, which product was profitable for export purposes. In this case we asked about the products that are grown or produced in this region. In this case the respondents had a free choice not to name exporting of different products to any of the neighboring countries. Table №F11 shows that Majority of Kvemo Kartli population has no answer regarding the export either. More than a fifth (23.1%) of respondents considers the export of fruit profitable. The country of export destination is named Russia in the first place, followed by Azerbaijan, Turkey and Armenia. 21.1% of respondents considers export of vegetables as profitable. In this case too Russia is the main export destination, followed by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey. Kvemo Kartli population considers the least profitable the export of swine. This is conditioned by two factors; on the one hand, Azeri population does not have pigs, and on the other, in neighboring Azerbaijan and Turkey pork is less consumed for religious reasons. Neither timber export is considered profitable. Survey results have shown that Kvemo Kartli population has limited information regarding import-export activities.

Table №F11: Which product is profitable for Kvemo Kartli population to export to the neighboring countries listed below? (%)

Product type	Azerbaijan	Turkey	Russia	Armenia	Not responded
Non-perennial crops (grain crop)	5.3	2.4	4.2	2.8	85.3
Non-perennial crops (vegetables)	6.1	3.6	7.2	4.2	78.9
Perennial crops (fruit)	5.9	4.4	8.4	4.4	76.9
Perennial crops (grapes)	5.2	3.8	6.5	3.9	80.6
Cattle	4.7	3.0	2.4	2.1	87.9
Sheep and goats	5.7	3.5	2.1	1.9	86.9
Pigs	1.6	1.5	3.0	2.7	91.1
Poultry/eggs	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.2	89.8
Canned products/ milk and dairy products	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.2	89.5
Precious and nonferrous metals	3.0	4.1	2.4	2.1	88.4
Timber and building materials	2.8	3.1	1.8	1.8	90.4
Chemicals/fertilizers	4.2	4.1	3.1	3.1	85.4

Programs implemented in Kvemo Kartli

Various economic development projects are being implemented in the regions of Georgia. We asked Kvemo Kartli population which projects have been implemented in Kvemo Kartli, whether they were involved in these projects and if not, for what reasons. The first program under our survey was “Cheap credit”. The program became effective from 2008 and its aim was to stimulate small and medium size enterprises by providing low interest rate loans. The overall volume of credit earmarked throughout Georgia within the framework of the program in 2008-2009 was 64.8 m GEL, while in 2010 it was only 1m GEL and that was from Tbilisi budget²⁹. As the survey results have shown, one third of Kvemo Kartli population has never heard about the program (32.1%). For 3.4% of the respondents it was difficult to respond and 61.5% of the interviewed were informed about the program, although they had never used it. 3% of Kvemo Kartli households state having obtained the cheap credit via the program. Despite the fact that this amount expressed in percentage is low, taking into account that only 92 families benefitted from it, the effectiveness of the program should rather be estimated positively. Beneficiaries of the program are evenly distributed in towns and villages. The survey results have shown that “cheap credit” program was mainly used in Dmanisi and Bolnisi districts, while the respondents in Tsalka have not used the program at all. According to ethnicity, the main beneficiaries of “cheap credit” were Georgians (4.2%), followed by the population of Azeri origin (1.6%). As for Armenian population of the region, not only had they benefitted from the program, but they had practically no information about it either. It is interesting to see why the informed part of households did not use the program (for detailed information, see Table №F12). As we can see from the survey results, almost half of the respondents considers that their households had no need for the services of the above program. This means that more than half of the families are not engaged in small or medium entrepreneurial activities, for the development of which the cheap credit would be useful. District perspective gives an interesting picture regarding the issue. Most often Rustavi inhabitants indicate no need of cheap credit. This can be explained by the fact that population in this district is mainly engaged in agricultural activities and cheap credit might have had a positive effect on the expansion of their activities. The second reason for not using the program is scarce information. It is interesting that half of Dmanisi and Marneuli inhabitants complain about lack of information, while in other districts this indicator is significantly lower. The third reason given is financial problems that hindered the respondents’ participation in the “cheap credit” program. Only 8.8% notes that the program did not function in their district or town. In this case it is interesting to look at districts. Almost two-thirds of Tsalka inhabitants say that there is no such program in their district. It is also interesting, that program efficiency is the least contested by respondents.

²⁹ <http://banksandfinance.ge/society/1417-iafi-kredit.html> the material was obtained on 26 October, 2011.

Table №F12: For Why didn't you participate in the program "Cheap credit"? (%)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	General
I did not have detailed information about the program	5.3	49.9	7.7	51.9	7.6	4.5	5.5	17.4
The program is not functioning in our district/town/village	11.6	2.4	2.6	3.3	4.0	66.0	3.7	8.1
We had no need for services provided by the above program	72.1	24.8	50.6	8.1	47.4	7.3	25.4	48.2
We don't believe the program is effective	5.5	2.9	5.7	1.6	5.6	9.1	7.9	5.3
Due to financial problems	4.2	15.6	15.2	20.2	32.4	5.4	34.9	14.6
It is difficult to respond	1.3	4.4	8.2	14.9	3.0	7.6	22.6	6.4

Since 2009, "Hybrid Corn and Seed" program supported by the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia has been implemented. The aim of the program was to boost the crop yield in Georgia by using hybrid seeds that would increase the yield several times. The survey results show that 2.3% (98 families³⁰) have participated in the program, although the level of awareness about the program is much higher (28.1% of the interviewed have not heard about the program). 66.2% of households have not used the above program. Table №F13 reflects the reasons for which the interviewed households did not participate in the program. In this case again, more than half of respondents does not participate in the program as they have no need for it (it should be noted that in this case Rustavi has higher indicator, which is natural)³¹. The second barrier that hindered population's participation in the program is of financial character (14.3%). This can be explained by the fact that the families engaged in agricultural activities take into account the costs of purchase and growing of hybrid corn and that is why they refuse to participate in the program (although they can purchase the seeds by borrowing from the state). The third barrier mentioned is the lack of information, especially in Marneuli district.

"Mechanization Program" has been implemented with the support of partnership funds CNFA and USAID. The aim of the program was to equip rural areas with relevant agricultural technologies. From the results of the study it can be seen that only 2.1% of Kvemo Kartli population took part in the above project. The reasons for non-participation are the same as above (no need and lack of information). Only 93 families have used the agricultural equipment provided by the mechanization program. One-third of the interviewed is not informed about the program (32.7%). 61.9% of respondents are informed but have not used the program.

³⁰ In this case, indicator in % is lower, as the % is calculated only among the inhabitant in rural settlements.

³¹ Only five families used the program of Hybrid corn and mechanization in Rustavi. These are presumably the families that despite living in the town, have also plots of land and are engaged in agricultural activities.

Table №F13: For which reason didn't you participate in hybrid corn and seeds program? (%)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	General
I did not have detailed information about the program	1.5	47.3	12.4	32.2	2.6	3.1	6.1	12.7
The program is not functioning in our district/town/village	11.8	3.8	2.7	3.4	4.6	55.6	3.7	8.3
We had no need for services provided by the above program	82.8	26.4	53.1	23.8	37.2	22.5	27.9	52.7
We don't believe the program is effective	1.3	2.8	5.1	2.3	11.5	8.5	7.4	4.2
Due to financial problems	1.3	15.1	14.5	19.1	40.1	5.5	33.1	14.3
Due to other problems	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	2.8	0.5
It is difficult to respond	1.0	4.7	12.1	19.3	3.7	4.8	19.0	7.3

Table №F14 shows the reasons for not participating in “Mechanization Program”. More than half (53%) of the interviewed names having no need for the services provided by the program as the reason for not participating in the program. In this case too most of the answers fall on Rustavi. However, there is quite a high indicator in Bolnisi and Tetritskharo. The second reason is financial problems that are most significantly observed in Gardabani district. In Marneuli district respondents complain about the lack of information about the program. Insignificant number of respondents notes being on the waiting list and still waiting for their turn.

Table №F14: Why did not you participate in mechanization program? (%)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	General
I did not have detailed information about the program	1.3	49.1	12.2	30.5	5.0	4.8	5.5	13.0
The program is not functioning in our district/town/village	11.9	2.9	2.4	3.6	8.3	41.3	3.7	7.9
We had no need for services provided by the above program	82.9	24.4	52.2	15.0	37.5	18.3	25.7	53.0
We don't believe the program is effective	1.6	2.9	5.4	2.4	3.3	6.3	7.8	3.5
Due to financial problems	0.8	15.2	15.4	23.7	41.2	21.4	35.0	14.5
We are still on the waiting list	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.6	0.4
It is difficult to respond	1.0	5.4	12.5	24.8	3.3	7.9	21.8	7.7

Rural support program

Summary

Rural support state program has been implemented in rural settlements of Georgia On the initiative of the President of Georgia since 2009. 100 m. GEL has been allocated from the state budget for the implementation of the above program, which is intended to address the primary social and economic needs of all Georgian villages. Apart from economic significance, one of the main goals of rural support state program was to give a start to the formation of civil society. Population was supposed to learn to identify the priorities for their locations. With the support of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Eurasian Cooperation Fund, the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) implemented the project entitled “Community Empowerment for Rural Development” aiming at the evaluation of purposefulness and efficiency of the rural program. According to the Economic Policy Research Center, rural support state program is evaluated as unsatisfactory³². The main problem according to the Center is unfinished works, low quality of implemented works, incorrect identification of priorities and including single needs in them.

On the words of the Community Empowerment for Rural Development project coordinator, Tamar Khorbaladze, the involvement of the population countrywide in the rural support program expressed in % is about 22%, while 35% of population has not heard about the program. According to the project’s media coordinator, the main problem of the project is the lack of information among population.

The above research was aiming to study the population’s level of awareness, involvement, satisfaction with results regarding the rural support state program implemented in Kvemo Kartli region. From the results of the survey we can see that the effectiveness of rural support state program is unsatisfactory. This is, in the first place, due to the fact that more than half of Kvemo Kartli rural respondents have no information about the program, which by itself excludes their involvement in the implementation of the program. Besides, the part of respondents who had information, does not exactly know about the program aims, whether the program is being carried out in their locality, or if any meeting or survey has been held. It can be said that information supply is the biggest problem in course of implementation of the program, which greatly decreases the potential of civil activity.

Population involved in Kvemo Kartli region rural support program (all in all 10% of the population of Kvemo Kartli region) reveal a higher degree of satisfaction with effective spending of funds and problem solving through the program. Among Kvemo Kartli districts we can single out Tsalka district where the rural support state program was quite successful (in terms of information provision, civil activity, efficiency). If we evaluate the success of rural support state program according to these three criteria, the least successful among them is Gardabani district. Survey results show that the respondents of Armenian and Azeri origin are the least informed about the rural support state program and consequently, reveal less civil activity.

³² Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) <http://www.tavisupleba.org/content/article/24292468.html>, the material was obtained on 23 September, 2011

Awareness of the population about the rural support program

The questions about rural support state program were answered only by Kvemo Kartli rural population, that constitute 76% of the entire respondents of Kvemo Kartli. ³³

35.7% of Kvemo Kartli population has heard about the rural support state program. This indicator precisely corresponds with the indicator identified by Economic Policy Research Center for the entire country. In district perspective awareness about rural support state program differs significantly (see Table #N1). The number of the respondents informed about the program is high in Tsalka, Tetrtskharo and Dmanisi. More than half of the rural population has information about the rural support program in the above districts. The least informed are Gardabani and Marneuli rural inhabitants where only one-fifth of the population has information about the program.

The level of awareness about the rural programs can depend not only on different ways of implementation of the program in different districts but also on different ethnic origins of citizens living in different districts. As can be seen from the survey results, a quarter of Azeri, one third of Armenian and almost half of Georgian population are aware of the rural support state program. The difference in the level of awareness of rural programs in various ethnic groups can be explained by several factors: a) compact settlement of ethnic groups, due to which there is a limited contact with other ethnic groups that impedes the spread of the information; b) Rural support program is being implemented in Georgian language, which restricts the involvement of ethnic groups in this project. Male population is more informed about the program than female. This was an expected result, since the community and public sphere is more inaccessible for women in Kvemo Kartli region (sub-chapter on “Gender Equality” provides more details on the issue).

Table №N1: Have you heard about the rural support program? (% according to district perspective)

Districts	Yes	No
Marneuli	19.7	80.3
Bolnisi	44.0	56.0
Dmanisi	55.7	44.3
Tetrtskharo	59.9	40.1
Tsalka	67.8	32.2
Gardabani	21.0	79.0

63.2% of the population having heard about the rural support program has adequate information, i.e. this number of respondents considers that rural support program is aiming to address the solution of urgent problems of rural population through state funding. This indicator refers to 28.2% of the entire Kvemo Kartli rural population. The rest of the population states that the aim of the program is to address different infrastructural or agricultural issues. We can assume that this part of respondents does not quite well understand the essence of the rural support state program, since in their understanding, the above program is intended for the solution of a specific problem (for detailed information, see Table

³³ Consequently, 716 respondents, i.e. 24% of the interviewed population left questions about the rural -support program.

№N2). Some differences between districts have been observed in this case too. Majority of rural population of Tsalka district has adequate information about the rural support state program (96.6% of the informed respondents answer adequately). Despite the fact that the level of awareness about the program is low in Marneuli district, the informed respondents have adequate information (70.7% of the informed respondents answer adequately). If the level of awareness was higher among Georgians followed by the population of Armenian and Azeri origin, it turned out that there are dissimilar tendencies in having adequate information among these ethnic groups. 91.5% of respondents of Armenian, 65.4% of Azeri and 57.1% of Georgian origin are adequately informed about the rural support state program.

Table № N2: What is the aim of the rural program? (%)

The aims of rural support programs	%
To solve the urgent problems for rural population through state funding	63.3
Rehabilitation of roads	11.7
Fix outdoor lighting	2.1
Improve water supply	5.9
Purchase agricultural equipment	2.7
Develop educational infrastructure	0.3
Difficult to answer	13.5

Functioning of rural support program and the level of involvement of the population

57% of the population in Kvemo Kartli informed about the rural support state program states that the above program is being implemented in their village, which constitutes 27.6% of Kvemo Kartli region's population. 21.5% of the informed respondents say that the program is not being implemented in their settlement and 21.5% has no information whether it is being implemented in their village or not. Let us have a closer look at these data in district perspective. Among Kvemo Kartli region districts, the leading position has Tsalka, where the majority of rural population (88.8%) indicates the implementation of the program in their villages. Majority of Tetrtskharo district population (71%) notes that rural support program is functioning in their village. More than half of the informed rural inhabitants in Dmanisi (60.8%) and Bolnisi (57.2%) districts also indicate the above. Only 20% of the informed rural inhabitants in Marneuli and 44.9% in Gardabani say that rural support program is functioning in their settlements. According to ethnicity, 70.6% of the informed respondents of Armenian, 66.4% of Georgian and 40.7% of Azeri origin specify the implementation of the rural support program. (Those respondents who indicated that the rural support program was not being implemented in their villages did not respond to other questions).

One of the main purposes of rural support programs, as we have noted above, is to enhance rural community involvement. According to program initiators, one of the methods of enhancement of community involvement could be the population's active participation in village meetings or surveys where they would identify the urgent issues of their village themselves. The question: *"Has any meeting*

or population survey been conducted in your village to identify the village needs?" was responded by 52.3% positively.³⁴ 20.2% of respondents say that the population has not been involved in the process of identifying the urgent needs of the village and 27.5% notes that they have no information about any meetings held or surveys conducted. According to regions, respondents of Tetrtskharo and Dmanisi districts most often indicate holding the village meeting (79.6% and 63.6% respectively). 37.1% of Gardabani population indicates holding of the meeting within the framework of rural support state program; this indicator in Marneuli is 40% and in Bolnisi -21.1%. Survey results cannot serve the proof for understanding the real picture of which districts held village meetings and conducted interviews within the framework of rural support program, since similar activities might have really taken place in villages, but not all inhabitants or family members had been informed about it. However, the fact that a certain part of rural inhabitants has no information, must be considered as a drawback of the program.

That majority of the informed respondents (or their family members) has taken part in the process of identifying the urgent issues within the rural support program, indicates the positive trend. 58.5% of the informed respondents note the above³⁵. 37.1% of respondents living in Kvemo Kartli region having been informed about the program and the survey did not take part in village meetings or interviews and 4.5% does not know if their family members did. Civil activity of the population, which is expressed by participating in meetings, vary from district to district. Tetrtskharo, Gardabani and Tsalka population stand out in terms of high level of civil activity, while in Dmanisi, Bolnisi and Marneuli districts civil activity is low. There are differences according to ethnicity as well. Most active participation in meetings or surveys is observed among ethnic Georgians (62.4%), followed by ethnic Armenians (51.2%) and ethnic Azeri (49.3%). Those 147 families living in villages where meetings or surveys have been conducted and they did not take part in this process, name the following reasons for their inactiveness (see Table №N3).

Table № N3: Why did not you take part in the meetings and surveys held within the rural support program framework? (%of people informed about the rural support program which is being implemented in their villages noting that the meeting or survey has been conducted)

The reasons for not taking part in a meeting or survey conducted in the village	%
I had no information about it	34.4
We had no time	32.1
I think nothing will be solved in a fair way	13.8
I trust the decision of other village inhabitants	19.7

As can be seen from the respondents' answers, one of the reasons for not taking part in village meetings or surveys is having no information, which speaks about the drawback in the program logistics and publicity. The next reason is the inactiveness of the population. It is interesting that only 13.8% notes about unfairness of the meeting or survey and that 19.7% reveals passive democracy ("I trust the decision of other village inhabitants"). According to ethnicity, it is clear that Georgians did not

³⁴ We should bear in mind that this is only 378 citizens living in rural areas who know the existence of the program and testify the implementation of the program in their villages; this constitutes 16.6% of rural population of Kvemo Kartli region.

³⁵ There are all in all 228 of such households which is 10% of Kvemo Kartli region's rural population.

participate in meetings because of being uninformed, but the above reason for Azeri was having no time. Armenian respondents state that they trust the decision made by majority.

The research has also shown how Kvemo Kartli rural population estimates the objectivity of priorities identified as a result of meetings or surveys. As the data show, majority of the informed rural population considers that the identified problems are really a priority. Part of the respondents thinking that the identified problems are not a priority constitutes 6.8%. (see Table №N4 for the detailed information).

Table №N4: Do you think that the urgent problems identified within the rural support program are real priority? (% according to district perspective N=632)

Assessment scale	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	Total
Yes	6.7	31.2	58.7	57.7	74.8	62.5	52.7
Rather yes than not	73.3	25.8	29.8	17.6	15.9	12.5	23.7
Rather not than yes	0.0	6.5	3.3	7.7	2.8	3.1	4.7
No	0.0	4.3	1.7	0.7	0.0	6.3	2.1
I don't know	20.0	32.3	6.6	16.2	6.5	15.6	16.8

Apart from identifying the needs, the effectiveness of rural support state program is also determined according to how consistently the sums allocated by the central budget have been applied to the needs identified by rural support program. 64.1% of the population informed about rural support state program considers that the funds were reasonably spent on village problems (18.8% of Kvemo Kartli region rural population). Inefficient spending of funds is noted by 11.6% of the informed rural population (which is 3.1% of Kvemo Kartli region's rural population). About a quarter of the informed respondents does not know how consistently the funds have been spent on improving urgent problems of the village (24.2%). Inefficient spending of funds allocated within the rural support program is often indicated by Gardabani (39.4%) and Tetritskharo (19.7%) districts. Ethnic Georgian population indicates the inefficient spending of funds within the above program most often (15.2%), followed by the population of Azeri origin (8%). Armenian population expresses high level of satisfaction in this respect.

Apart from consistent spending of funds, the effectiveness of the rural support state program should be estimated according to solving the revealed problems as well. On the data of Economic Policy Research Center, this was one of the problematic issues connected with the program, since due to incorrectly planned priorities or the scarcity of funds, the activities initiated within the framework of the program, were often abandoned in the middle. As we can see from the survey, a large part (66.5%) of the respondents informed about the rural support program in Kvemo Kartli region considers that urgent problems for the village have been settled within the framework of the program.³⁶ 15.2% of respondents involved in rural support program considers that the problem has not been solved or it has rather not been solved ³⁷. 18.3% of respondents have no information about eliminating the problem. From the results of the previous question, it logically follows that in districts where the respondents indicated

³⁶This is almost one-fifth of rural population of Kvemo Kartli region (19.4%).

³⁷ Which is 4% of rural population of Kvemo Kartli region

inefficient spending of funds, now indicate that the problems of their village have not been solved. In this respect, Gardabani district can be distinguished: here, 39.4% of the informed inhabitants notes that the problems still persist. The same is noted by 24.8% of the interviewed in Tetrtskharo. Relatively low is the indicator in Marneuli, Dmanisi and Bolnisi. Vast majority of Tsalka respondents (88%) indicates the solution of village problems.

Migration

Summary

Labour migration has been a serious problem for Georgian government since the 90s of the XX century. Since 90s, a large wave of population has been leaving the country for post-Soviet or other western countries in search of employment. The reason for going abroad, as a rule was hard social-economic situation and political instability which favored the increase of the number of the unemployed. It is well known that the main reason of migration is unemployment, which still persists as the most significant social problem in Georgia. However, from Kvemo Kartli region, a large wave of population migrated not only for social problems. Many ethnically non-Georgian citizens of Georgia left this ethnically diverse region for real or imaginary threat of ethnic discrimination. The main destination of migrants from Kvemo Kartli was Russia or their ethnic homeland. According to the data of National Statistics Office of Georgia, the population of Kvemo Kartli decreased in number by 110961 persons between 1989-2002. Migration from Kvemo Kartli has one specific characteristic feature: people migrated together with their families rather than individually. This fact indicates that the state policy towards ethnic minorities posed a worse problem than the social one.

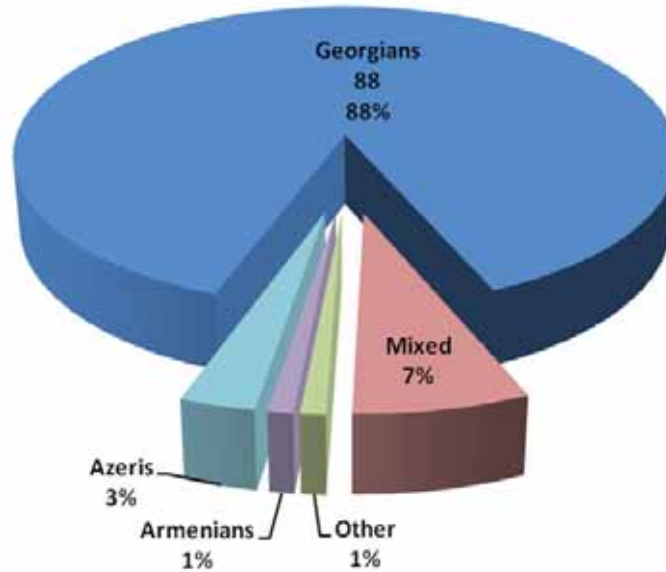
According to the research only 3% of respondents (and not of households) have been in migration in the past 20 years, and at the moment of the interview, 5.5% of households has at least one migrant member. This is quite a low indicator showing that the level of migration for a single member of households from Kvemo Kartli is not so high. The fact that mainly young members of a family tend to migrate, poses the threat for the region's demography. Among migrants from Kvemo Kartli regions, male population slightly prevails over the female. The question as to which member of the family will migrate is mainly conditioned by the destination and the needs of migrant-receiving country. Consequently, for men, the destination countries of migration is post-Soviet space, while for women it is Greece, Italy and Turkey. The main purpose of migration is employment. Every second migrant helps their families financially. For 3.4% of households living in Kvemo Kartli region exactly these remittances are the only family income. All the data point to the fact that families who have migrant member(s) are economically better off than those depending on the local economy. Anticipated cases of migration are not many in Kvemo Kartli – there are only three families who have decided to leave the borders of Georgia.

Mobility profile of Kvemo Kartli population

The families in the region (95.4%), have lived at the current address for more than 20 years. The major part of them have moved from other localities of the region. After 1991, the families settled down in new localities, mainly in Tetrtskharo (14% of families in the district), Gardabani (10%) and Rustavi (6.4%). In the rest of the districts less than 1% of families settled in new localities.

Most of the new settlers are Georgians (87.8%), followed by families with mixed nationalities (7.4%). Graph №R1 shows the distribution of families that settled down after 1991 according to their national composition.

Graph №R1: distribution of families settled after 1991 according to their national composition (%)

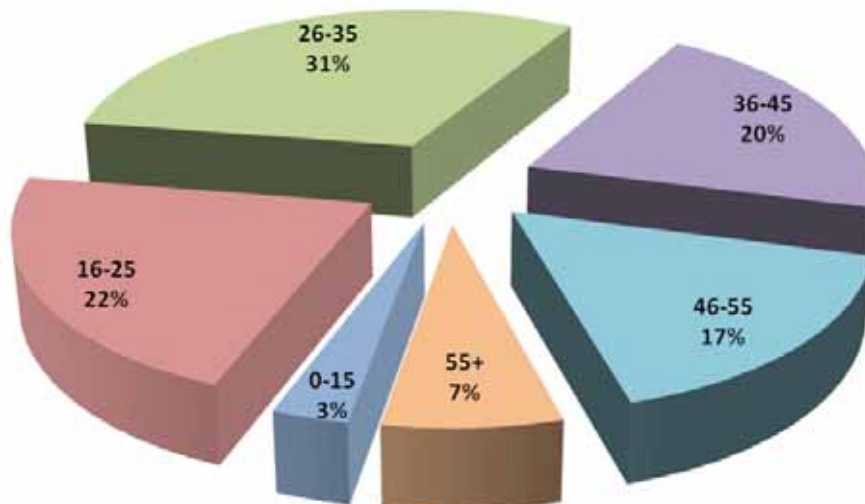


30% of newly settled families have moved from another locality of the region, 60% from another region of Georgia and only 10% have arrived from abroad.

Only 3% of the population above 15 years old notes that they have left the country for at least three months since 1991. Two thirds of them have been abroad only once, and 15% regularly travel abroad. 66.6% of those who are outside the country, migrated for work purposes, 14.5% were studying, for 7.4% the reason for the long stay abroad was treatment and 11.6% -was not able to do anything during the period of migration.

At the moment of the survey, 5.5% of families noted that at least one of their member had been away for more than 3 months. Among the migrants, 58% are men and 42% -women. The destination of migration determines who should leave from a family. In post-Soviet countries women rarely migrated independently. In this case, if the migrant was a woman, she mainly accompanied the man. This tendency differs in the case of migrating to Italy or Greece. These countries are mainly the destination for women where they become independent migrants. Most often young family members migrate from a family. Namely, 31.1% of migrants are between 26-35. Graph №R2 shows the distribution of migrants according to age groups.

Graph №R2: Distribution of migrants who have migrated for more than three months according to age groups (%)



The fact that three quarters of migrants have left for work purposes, signifies labor migration from Kvemo Kartli. 10% of Kvemo Kartli migrants has left for educational purposes. Almost half of migrants help their families financially. However, it is not the main source of income for all families. The only source of income for 3.4% of migrants' families is money transfers. Every tenth family help the migrant themselves. The rest of them have no economic ties with the family.

According to respondents' information, 43.4% of migrants are not coming back within the following year. 29.2% of migrants are going to return, and the rest have not made a final decision yet.

In the next 6 months, only 1.4% of families are going to change their place of residence. Half of them are going to change the place of residence within the same locality. There is a small number of families who are going to move abroad.

Ethnic minorities

Summary

Protection of rights of ethnic minorities, tolerance and support of their integration into society is one of the important challenges. The issue of ethnic minorities has many aspects: political, ideological, social, economic. Inappropriately protected rights of ethnic minorities result in social exclusion of the above groups.

Three aspects presented in the research, determine the state of different ethnic groups living in Kvemo Kartli: a) protection of rights; b) knowledge of the state language; c) relationship with different ethnic groups.

In the context of rights protection, general picture, as well as that of district and ethnic perspective is mainly positive, however, respondents' opinions in this case are based on personal /subjective

perception. Despite this, problems still persist, that are revealed as follows: 1) the share of respondents who found it difficult to answer the questions regarding rights protection is not small; here we can see the attempt to cover the problems of human rights; 2) respondents present their ethnic rights as being infringed upon.

Non-Georgian population developed the desire to learn Georgian, which is presumably motivated by further career plans and the increase of social inclusion. However, it should be noted, that there still exists a group of indifferent non-Georgians who has no wish of integration into Georgian society (and with great likelihood, they must be having contacts with neighboring countries).

The research presents the following two types of relationships between different ethnic groups: 1) relationships between Georgians and non-Georgians, which often bears positive signs and the indicator of negative/conflict relationship, which is minimal; 2) relationships between different ethnic groups, which has also been estimated positively by respondents. However, a certain “distance” between ethnic groups still exists which is expressed by the fact that the respondents have unequivocally positive relationships mostly with the representatives of their own ethnicity (this is especially true of relationship with relatives, which, as a rule, is minimal between different ethnic groups) and also by the high share of the respondents who had difficulty in answering this question.

Estimation of the legal status by respondents

Human Rights Protection - the research shows that the attitude of Kvemo Kartli population towards the estimation of the context of human rights protection is mainly positive. Although this research does not allow to estimate what respondents' understanding of human rights is and how adequately they perceive their protection. (Presumably, the number of respondents who found it difficult to answer the question “*Are the rights of different ethnic groups violated?*”, proves the above). Besides, the signs of ethnocentrism have been revealed – representatives of this or that ethnic group speak about unprotected rights of their own ethnic groups more, than of others.

Are the rights of various ethnic groups protected in Kvemo Kartli region?

Within the given research, the respondents were to estimate how much the rights of various ethnic groups are protected in their district/town: Georgians', Azeri', Greeks', Russians' and Armenians'.

Analysis has shown (see Table №Q1) that the respondents in Kvemo Kartli region where different ethnic groups live (in general, irrespective of nationality) indicate that the rights of various ethnic groups living in Kvemo Kartli are protected (besides, the prevailing opinion is that the rights are fully protected). There is a high share of the respondents who found it difficult to respond and it varies between 14-17%. According to districts, the trend does not change.

Table №Q1: How much are the rights of ethnic groups listed below protected in your district/town? (% according to district perspective)

		Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	Total
Azeri	Totally protected	81.1	34.1	40.2	88.3	57.8	93.4	63.5	62.2
	Rather protected	11.1	36.0	50.9	6.9	20.0	3.3	7.3	21.7
	Rather unprotected	0.2	1.6	1.1	0	1.0	0.3	4.2	1.4
	Totally unprotected	0.4	1.1	0.5	2.0	0	0	2.3	0.9
	Do not live here	0	1.9	0	0.5	7.3	0	5.1	1.8
	Difficult to answer	4.1	25.3	7.3	2.2	14.0	3.1	17.7	12.0
Greek	Totally protected	79.6	5.9	35.5	52.4	57.8	93.2	24.0	45.2
	Rather protected	11.1	23.8	48.2	17.2	20.3	2.2	6.8	19.1
	Rather unprotected	0.2	1.1	0.2	0	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.5
	Totally unprotected	0.4	0.4	0	0.2	0	0	0.4	0.3
	Do not live here	4.1	27.5	5.9	3.8	7.5	0.5	51.6	17.7
	Difficult to answer	4.6	41.2	10.2	26.4	14.2	3.3	16.7	17.2
Russians	Totally protected	81.5	8.5	35.0	51.9	58.5	61.2	28.0	45.2
	Rather protected	10.9	26.2	48.2	18.2	20.5	1.3	7.1	19.6
	Rather unprotected	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.5
	Totally unprotected	0.4	0.4	0	0.2	0.2	0	0.9	0.4
	Do not live here	2.6	20.5	5.9	4.0	6.7	32.5	48.4	16.9
	Difficult to answer	4.3	43.9	10.5	25.3	13.5	4.0	14.8	17.4
Armenians	Totally protected	83.0	12.3	38.4	54.3	61.0	92.9	30.5	49.5
	Rather protected	10.7	27.1	48.2	17.8	21.5	4.5	8.9	20.3
	Rather unprotected	0.2	0.4	0.2	0	0.2	1.3	0.7	0.4
	Totally unprotected	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.7	0	0	0.9	0.5
	Do not live here	1.5	17.7	2.5	1.4	4.2	0	42.2	12.3
	Difficult to answer	4.1	41.8	10.5	25.7	13.0	1.3	16.9	17.1
Georgians	Totally protected	78.9	13.7	38.2	80.2	68.0	88.9	36.4	51.3
	Rather protected	7.6	29.9	49.3	10.4	25.2	7.5	14.3	21.1
	Rather unprotected	5.7	1.1	0.2	0.3	0.7	1.8	4.0	2.7
	Totally unprotected	1.5	1.3	0	0	0	0	1.1	0.9
	Do not live here	0	17.4	0.9	1.0	1.0	0	30.4	9.3
	Difficult to answer	6.3	36.5	11.4	8.2	5.0	1.8	13.8	14.6

The trends in ethnic perspective do not significantly differ from general data, however some minor differences regarding unprotected rights can still be observed: 1. Relatively more Azeri respondents note that the rights of Azeri are fully unprotected, or rather unprotected; 2. Similar to the above, Georgian respondents also speak about their rights being fully unprotected, or rather unprotected (see Table N Q2).

Table №Q2 How much are the rights of ethnic groups listed below protected in your district/town? (% according to ethnic perspective)

		Georgian	Azeri	Armenian	Russian	Greek	Other	Total
Georgians'	Totally protected	73.4	54.8	53.4	59.8	91.0	75.1	67.5
	Rather protected	19.8	44.3	45.8	40.2	6.8	24.9	27.8
	Rather unprotected	5.1	0.7	0.8	0.0	2.2	0.0	3.6
	Totally unprotected	1.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2
Azeris'	Totally protected	80.5	61.1	56.7	67.4	89.8	75.1	72.2
	Rather protected	18.7	33.0	43.3	19.8	8.3	24.9	25.1
	Rather unprotected	0.4	3.8	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	1.6
	Totally unprotected	0.4	2.1	0.0	12.8	0.0	0.0	1.1
Armenians'	Totally protected	80.6	41.8	60.6	64.6	88.4	75.1	70.0
	Rather protected	18.7	56.0	37.2	22.6	9.4	24.9	28.7
	Rather unprotected	0.2	1.4	1.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.6
	Totally unprotected	0.5	0.8	1.3	12.8	0.0	0.0	0.7
Russians'	Totally protected	79.9	39.5	47.1	64.6	88.5	69.0	68.8
	Rather protected	19.3	58.7	49.1	22.6	8.9	22.9	29.8
	Rather unprotected	0.4	1.3	2.0	0.0	2.6	8.2	0.7
	Totally unprotected	0.4	0.4	1.9	12.8	0.0	0.0	0.6
Greeks'	Totally protected	80.3	38.6	55.1	64.6	88.4	75.1	69.5
	Rather protected	18.9	59.3	44.3	22.6	9.4	24.9	29.3
	Rather unprotected	0.4	1.7	0.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.7
	Totally unprotected	0.4	0.4	0.0	12.8	0.0	0.0	0.5

Desire to learn Georgian language

Knowledge of the state language is an important factor which is directly reflected on the rights, as well as economic state of ethnic minorities. Due to the language barrier, non-Georgian citizens are restricted in different activities – getting education, employment/career perspective, etc. This fact can explain why the large part of ethnic minorities is more or less interested in learning Georgian (however, the number of respondents who are indifferent towards the above issue is not so small).

Respondents were to state their own opinion on how much the representatives of different ethnic groups – Azeri, Greeks, Russians, Armenians wished to learn Georgian.

According to most of the interviewed, the representatives of ethnic minorities want to learn Georgian (see Table №Q3). The opinion that any given ethnic group has no desire at all or has rather no desire to learn Georgian has the minimal share. It is noteworthy that there is quite a large group of respondents (14-25%) that found it difficult to answer the above question. No significant differences have been revealed in district perspective apart from the fact that the “Difficult to answer” prevails in Marneuli

and Tetrtskharo over other districts. In ethnic perspective no significant differences have been observed.

Table №Q3: In your opinion, do the ethnic groups listed below have a wish to learn Georgian? (%)

	They do	They rather do	They rather don't	They don't	They do not live here	Difficult to answer
Azeris	51.0	27.3	3.8	3.1	0.8	14.0
Greeks	28.2	24.3	3.5	2.8	16.1	25.1
Russians	27.4	23.9	4.7	3.5	15.0	25.4
Armenians	33.4	25.2	3.9	2.9	11.3	23.3

Relationships between ethnic Georgians and non-Georgians

Relationship between ethnic Georgians and non-Georgians – communication and informal contacts – is the factor, which favors the integration of each ethnic group (majorities and minorities) into the society.

The respondents were to estimate relationships between Georgians and non-Georgians according to four parameters: 1. Friendly and good neighborly; 2. Neutral (do not bother each other); 3. Tense; 4. Conflicting. As it turned out, more than half of the interviewed (55.1%) considers that relationships between Georgians and non-Georgians are friendly and good neighborly and according to every fifth respondent, these relationships are neutral. Insignificant number states about tense and conflicting relationships. However, it should be noted that almost a quarter of the respondents found it difficult to answer (23.8%) which can possibly be due to respondents' a) lack of information and b) attempt to evade the issue. In district perspective no significant differences have been revealed, although the choice “I find it difficult to answer” got the highest indicator expressed in % (60.4%) and the lowest - choice of “neutral” (see Table №Q4).

Table №Q4: If you were to estimate the relationships between ethnic Georgians and non-Georgians in your area of residence, would you say that these relationships are ... (% in district perspective)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetrtskharo	Gardabani	Tsalka	General
Friendly and good neighbourly	74.6	25.4	71.8	79.5	56.0	75.0	31.0	55.1
Neutral (don't bother each other)	22.2	13.5	26.4	18.2	17.7	23.0	23.2	20.6
Tense	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.3
Conflicting	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.1
Difficult to answer	3.0	60.4	1.8	2.2	26.2	0.8	44.7	23.8

While analyzing ethnic perspective, it turned out that only 14 respondents indicated tense and conflicting relationships. 6 out of them are Georgians, 4 are Azeris and 4 – Greek. It should be noted, that none of the respondents answering the above question is ethnic Armenian. Besides, the choice

“Difficult to answer” has the highest indicator among Azeri population (43.3%). The result seems quite logical if we compare it with the question about protection of rights, to which the most negative responses were given by ethnic Azeri, while Armenian respondents almost did not give negative answers (see Table №Q5).

Table №Q5: If you were to estimate the relationships between ethnic Georgians and non-Georgians in your area of residence, would you say that these relationships are ... (% in ethnic perspective)

	Georgian		Azeri		Armenian	
Friendly and good neighbourly	61.9%	967	41.4%	558	66.4%	177
Neutral (don't bother each other)	25.8%	417	14.8%	156	8.5%	23
Tense	0.2%	4	0.4%	3	0%	0
Conflicting	0.1%	2	0.1%	1	0%	0
Difficult to answer	11.9%	222	43.3%	353	25.1%	35

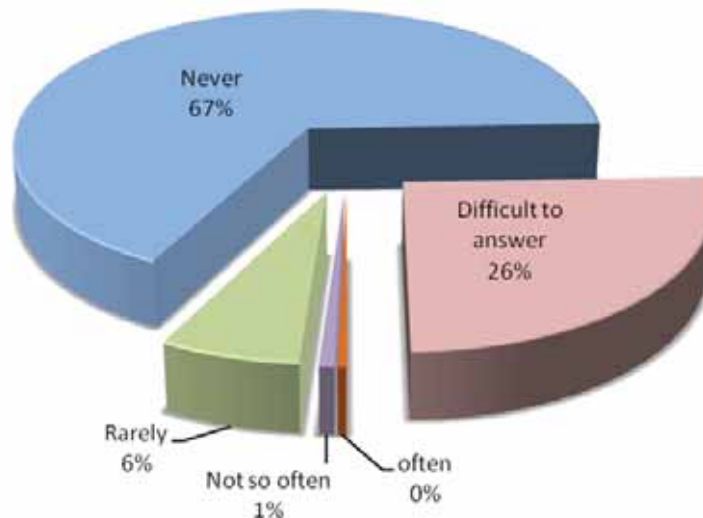
Note: The table contains the data given in percentage as well as the number of respondents

To check and confirm the data, the respondents were to answer the following, so called test question: *How often do conflicts arise between ethnic Georgians and non-Georgians in the area of your residence?*

The obtained results have almost coincided with the estimates on the relationships between ethnic Georgians and non-Georgians (if we compare the answer “never” (66.9%) with the total indicator of answers “neutral and friendly” of the previous question). No significant differences have been revealed in district perspective, except for the fact, that the share of respondents who found it difficult to answer is still high in Marneuli district (65.4%).

Neither have any significant differences been revealed in ethnic perspective, except for the fact, that relatively big number of Azeri respondents noted about rare conflicts (9.8%).

Graph №Q1: How often do conflicts arise between ethnic Georgians and non-Georgians in the area of your of residence? (%)



In that group of respondents (7.6%) indicating certain occurrence of conflicts between ethnic Georgians and non-Georgians name routine disagreements as the main source of conflict (21%) (See Table №Q6). Disagreements occurring on ethnic basis or connected with the farming plot or dwelling, have equal indicators. Besides, 177 respondents named two reasons and 18 respondents – one. Nobody has named more than two reasons. No differences have been revealed in regional perspective.

Table №Q6: What is the main source of conflicts between Georgians and non-Georgians? (%)

Disagreement over ethnic issues	14.0%
Disagreement over religious issues	11.2%
Disagreement over dwelling or plot of land	14.7%
Disagreement over routine problems	21.0%
Difficult to answer	38.3%

In ethnic and gender perspective there are small differences: more male respondents named disagreement over ethnic issues than female. Azeri respondents made emphasis on conflicts caused by national and religious issues, while Georgians mostly indicated disagreement over routine problems and plot of land. (see Table №Q7)

Table №Q7: What is the main source of these conflicts? (Absolute number according to sex and ethnicity)

	Sex		Nationality				
	Female	Male	Georgian	Azeri	Armenian	Russian	Greek
Disagreement over ethnic issues	13	21	19	14	1	0	0
Disagreement over religious issues	17	14	19	11	0	1	0
Disagreement over dwelling or plot of land	21	25	32	5	2	0	7
Disagreement over routine problems	11	30	38	2	0	0	1
Difficult to answer	37	41	68	5	4	0	1

Note: It was possible to give several answers to the question. Consequently, the given numbers do not reflect the respondents' sum total.

The next issue concerns respondents' relationships with various ethnic groups living in Kvemo Kartli. These relations may be of various kinds: friendly, businesslike, neighborly or at the level of relatives and acquaintances., On general assessment (concerning the respondents who have relations with other

ethnic groups), the respondents mostly estimate relations with those ethnic groups that are most numerous represented in Kvemo Kartli, i.e. ethnic Azeri and Georgians, pointing out relations between relatives, friends and neighbors (the indicator varies between 22-31%). With ethnic Greeks and Armenians – the relations with friends, neighbors and acquaintances are prevailing (approx. 12-22%), with Russians – relations with neighbors and acquaintances (approx. 14-18%). The highest indicator of having no relationships was reported among Greeks and Russians, i.e. those ethnic groups that are represented in small numbers in the region. In district perspective no significant differences have been revealed.

Table №Q8: What are your relationships with the listed ethnic groups ? (%)

	Relational	Friendly	Business	Neighborly	Relations only on familiar terms	No relations at all
With Azeri	22.6	20.6	6.7	31.9	8.4	9.9
With Greeks	2.4	12.8	2.7	11.9	11.9	58.2
With Russians	2.4	2.4	1.6	18.0	14.1	50.1
With Armenians	7.5	17.0	3.8	22.3	13.9	35.5
With Georgians	27.8	25.9	10.0	22.9	13.4	0.0

In ethnic perspective it has been revealed (as was expected) that the representatives of all ethnic groups note about family, friendly and neighborly relationships with the representatives from their own ethnos. Besides, Georgians have mostly neighborly relations with Azeri (39.3%) which is due to high representation of these two ethnic groups in the region. Azeri also state about having the friendliest relations with Georgians, after Azeri (24.8%).

Table №Q9: What are your relationships with the listed ethnic groups? (% in ethnic perspective)

		Georgian	Azeri	Armenian	Russian	Greek
With Azeri	Relations with relatives	1.3	42.0	0.5	11.7	14.2
	Friendly relations	15.8	23.4	30.9	16.2	18.9
	Business relations	5.3	7.3	11.4	0.0	21.5
	Neighborly relations	39.3	26.6	24.6	53.0	16.5
	Relations with acquaintances	18.3	0.1	12.3	2.2	21.5
	I have no relations at all	20.1	0.6	20.2	16.9	7.4
With Greeks	Relations with relatives	2.8	0.5	1.0	0.0	32.3
	Friendly relations	11.6	9.7	37.5	16.2	21.4
	Business relations	2.6	0.9	9.8	0.0	19.0
	Neighborly relations	16.3	4.1	9.4	37.5	19.9
	Relations with acquaintances	12.5	12.8	6.8	0.0	2.7
	I have no relations at all	54.2	72.0	35.5	46.3	4.8
With Russians	Relations with relatives	2.8	0.5	1.7	42.9	5.4
	Friendly relations	14.1	10.0	31.4	26.9	11.3
	Business relations	2.5	0.1	1.8	0.0	1.7
	Neighborly relations	25.8	6.9	8.0	20.8	1.7
	Relations with acquaintances	14.6	14.3	8.4	0.0	26.8
	I have no relations at all	40.2	68.2	48.7	9.4	53.1
With Armenians	Relations with relatives	4.6	0.5	34.3	8.7	4.0
	Friendly relations	15.8	14.2	26.7	29.2	24.4
	Business relations	2.8	0.9	13.3	0.0	16.1
	Neighborly relations	29.3	9.0	24.9	41.6	16.4
	Relations with acquaintances	18.2	12.9	0.5	0.0	25.7
	I have no relations at all	29.4	62.5	0.3	20.5	13.3
With Georgians	Relations with relatives	36.6	2.6	6.7	17.6	7.3
	Friendly relations	25.2	24.8	40.7	25.4	32.3
	Business relations	11.3	3.8	14.8	18.5	21.0
	Neighborly relations	25.2	15.1	18.4	38.4	28.3
	Relations with acquaintances	1.8	53.7	19.5	0.0	11.1

Gender Equality

Summary

Gender equality is one of the preconditions of the development of a democratic society. Creating equal opportunities for men and women in all spheres is the problem in many societies, including Georgia. Many projects have been implemented and several NGOs have been working on the issues over the last period. However, no significant changes are observed in this respect in the regions of Georgia. Gender inequality is differently revealed in a family, work place, political space and generally, in a society. Gender equality is influenced by different factors such as education, religion, social environment, type of settlement, etc.

In terms of gender inequality, Kvemo Kartli is one of the problematic regions; there are different social practices among ethnic and religious groups often accompanied with certain stereotypes. The questionnaire used in the survey on gender equality contained questions studying attitudes, neutral behavioral questions and behavioral questions.

The results have revealed that there are strong stereotypes in the population of Kvemo Kartli region. At the stage of qualitative research, it was revealed that gender inequality differs according to binary division – Moslem/Christian, town/village. The quantitative research has proved that speaking of such division is an exaggeration. It was revealed that Georgian population has double standards regarding sexual behavior which implies restriction of sexual relations for women and giving freedom to men, while Azeri population restricts sexual behavior for both genders. Same is true of adultery: Georgians have a more radical attitude towards adultery regarding the wives, while in the case of husband's adultery they do not see any reason for divorce. We should not link gender stereotypes directly to religion, since in a number of issues, for instance, ethnic Armenians reveal traditional attitude as much as Azeri. That is why, we can conclude that gender stereotypes are more characteristic for the region and they are not determined by single demographic characteristics.

Gender stereotypes strongly affect the distribution of functions between men and women. There are spheres, in which men have an absolute dominance (mainly managing finances, community activities, house repairs), while the sphere of women's activities is limited to household activities. In this case such division is not only connected to the difference in physical strength. A clear proof for the above is the fact that carrying water in households (which requires physical strength) is more of a woman's function. Besides, women are also involved in working on the land or taking care of livestock.

Gender roles

To study gender attitudes, we presented various statements to respondents that were structured according to commonly spread stereotypes of behaviors of men and women in the society. We provided the respondents with 7 statements, that they were to evaluate on a 3-point scale (with 1 meaning "strongly agree", 2- "neither agree, nor disagree", and 3- "strongly disagree").

Table № L.1 How much do you agree with the following statements? (N=2990) (%)

Statements	Evaluation scale	Female	Male	Total indicators
There are female and male jobs. Woman should not do the man's job and vice versa	Strongly agree	68.8	74.1	71.5
	Neither agree, not disagree	15.0	12.6	13.8
	Strongly disagree	13.4	10.6	12.1
	Difficult to answer	2.7	2.7	2.7
A good wife obeys the husband/partner even if she disagrees.	Strongly agree	44	53.6	48.8
	Neither agree, not disagree	21.8	19.6	20.7
	Strongly disagree	27.3	19.7	23.5
	Difficult to answer	6.8	7.1	7
For a woman it is most important to have family and children, for a man – it is career and earning money	Strongly agree	55.9	60.6	58.2
	Neither agree, not disagree	15.3	17.9	16.6
	Strongly disagree	23.5	16.9	20.2
	Difficult to answer	5.3	4.7	5
A woman's duty is to obey her husband/partner even if the man treats her badly	Strongly agree	9.6	15.7	12.6
	Neither agree, not disagree	12.4	16.4	14.4
	Strongly disagree	70.4	60.9	65.7
	Difficult to answer	7.6	7.0	7.3
It is necessary to maintain the family under any circumstances, even when husband uses violence against the wife	Strongly agree	8.4	13.6	11.0
	Neither agree, not disagree	9.8	12.9	11.3
	Strongly disagree	73.4	65.2	69.3
	Difficult to answer	8.4	8.3	8.4
If the husband uses physical violence against the wife (physical punishment) , it means the wife has deserved it	Strongly agree	8.2	14.6	11.4
	Neither agree, not disagree	10.5	13.8	12.1
	Strongly disagree	71.9	61.7	66.8
	Difficult to answer	9.4	9.9	9.6
A good wife and mother will never deserve bad treatment by the husband	Strongly agree	44.4	58.0	51.2
	Neither agree, not disagree	15.4	15.8	15.6
	Strongly disagree	33.3	20.7	27.0
	Difficult to answer	6.9	5.6	6.2

The survey results have established that the population in Kvemo Kartli region has quite strong stereotypes in the spheres as, for instance, a woman's function in the family and society. As we can see from the data, almost two-thirds of respondents consider that male and female jobs are differentiated according to gender; also more than half considers that the main thing for a woman is family, while for a man - it is career. The fact that half of the interviewed considers that a wife should obey the husband, despite having a different opinion, speaks for the man's dominant position in any sphere.

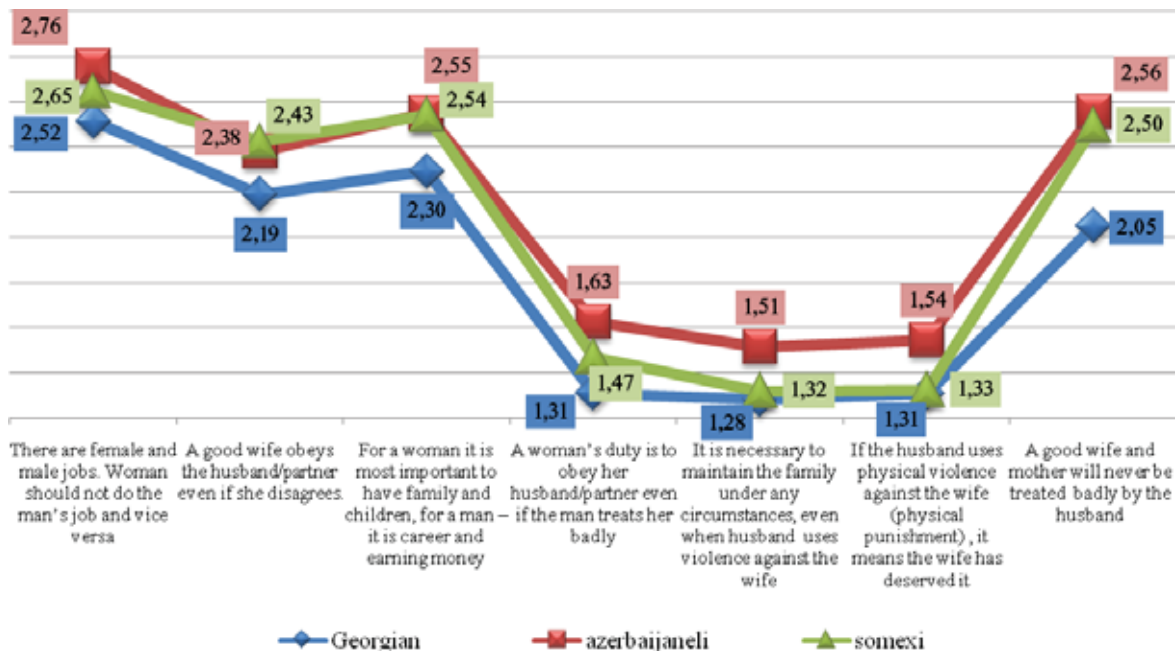
Data in gender perspective reveal small differences. Namely, women have a more liberal attitude towards delimiting male and female functions but they show the same tendencies as men. As for ethnic perspective, ethnic Azeris and Armenians perceive male and female functions in a more delimited way, while the representatives of Georgian ethnoses do not agree with gender-based delimitation of jobs. Armenian population emphasizes the importance of family for a woman and a career for a man more.

The results of the survey regarding violence against women are encouraging. Only a small part of the interviewed in Kvemo Kartli region considers the violence against a woman legitimate (11.4%). The statement - *“If the husband uses physical violence against the wife (physical punishment), it means the wife has deserved it”* - is fully supported by 16.5% of Azeri respondents, 10% of Armenians and 8.3% of Georgians. More than half of the respondents are against maintaining the family in the case of violence. In this case, the above statement is mostly supported by the population of Azeri origin (15.5%).

More than half of the interviewed in Kvemo Kartli population considers that in the case of bad treatment the wife should not obey her husband. However, the position of more than a half of the respondents contradicts this positive tendency: *“A good wife and mother will never deserve bad treatment by the husband”*. 63.4% of Azeris and 62.7% of Armenians agree with the above most often. As a result of analyzing this question, we can see that despite the fact, that the respondents consider violence illegitimate, they believe that violence can be a woman’s fault too. Even though women do not share gender stereotypes much, they still show strong tendencies of gender inequality.

Attitude to gender stereotypes differs in towns and villages. Rural populations mostly agree with gender stereotypes more often than the respondents living in towns. Graph N L1 reflects the means showing how much the respondents agree with gender stereotypes in ethnic perspective. The higher the mean, the more respondents share gender stereotypes. As we can see from the graph, gender stereotypes are shared mostly by the respondents of Azeri origin.

Graph № L1: How much do you agree with the following statement? Means according to ethnic origin (N =2990) (3 means – strongly agree, 1- strongly disagree)



To find out women's involvement in making decisions on various issues in a family, we asked behavioral questions. We presented eight different issues to the respondents and they were to state who makes decisions in their families regarding each issue on the questionnaire: a woman, a man, every member of a family or the bread winner.

The results show quite liberal tendencies (see Table N L2). On important issues the decision is made by all members of the family. The results also show that breadwinners (irrespective of gender) almost never take decision at their sole discretion, apart from several financial issues (everyday spending, health/treatment expenses). We can see that women attach more importance to the status of breadwinner than men. If we compare the importance of a breadwinner to that of a gender factor, we will see that gender determines the decision making process in a family rather than the status of a breadwinner (regardless their sex). Insignificant differences are revealed according to gender. Women more often than men indicate that the decision in their families on various issues is made by a woman. The same tendency is revealed among men, who often state that men make decisions in their families. Apart from that, Men more often indicate that decisions are made by all members of the family together. The sphere, in which men definitely prevail, is spending money on everyday needs and investing it in the activities related to family business/household activities. Azeri respondents, compared to other ethnic groups, more often indicate men's dominance in decision making process.

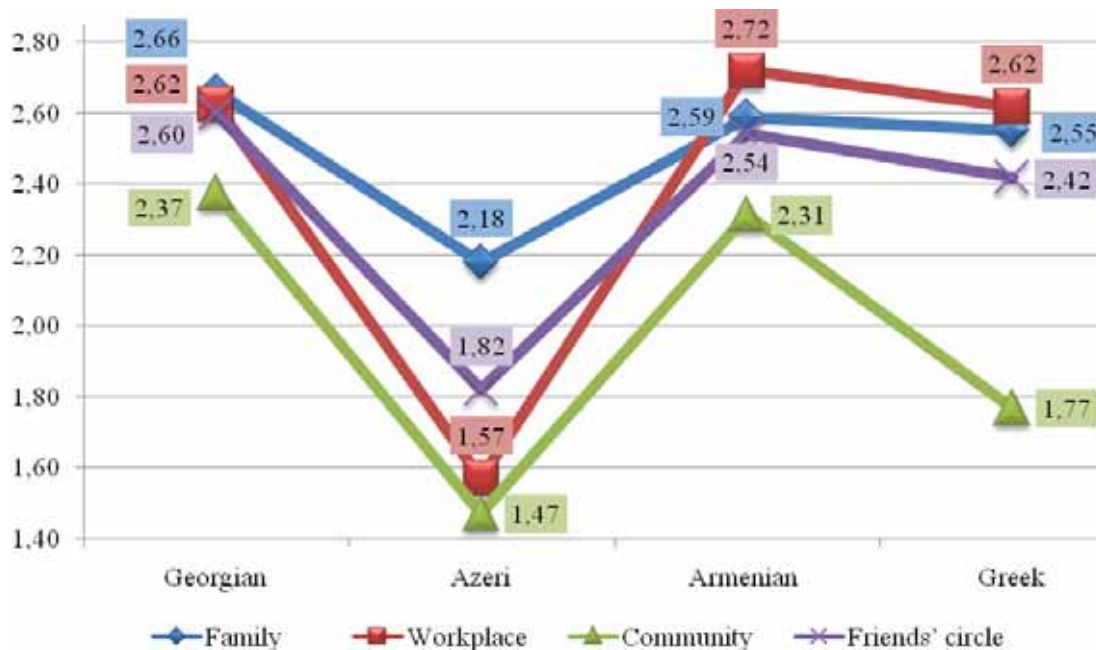
Table № L2: Who takes decision on the issues listed below in your family?

		Man	Woman	All members of the family	The one who earns money	It does not concern me	Difficult to answer
Spending money on everyday needs	Female	23.1	19.2	34.2	20.6	1.3	1.6
	Male	29.6	15.4	39.7	13.6	0.7	1.1
Having a child	Female	5.3	21.9	34	4.4	31.8	2.7
	Male	6.3	20.8	38.7	2.4	27.9	3.9
Children's marriage	Female	6.9	7.3	44.2	6	31.0	4.6
	Male	8.6	4.5	52.1	3.4	26.6	4.8
Acquiring important household articles	Female	8.7	12.5	53.8	8.7	10.0	1.8
	Male	11.8	9.9	60.7	6.6	9	1.9
Moving the house	Female	7.4	6.0	41.3	6.9	26.9	11.5
	Male	9.5	3.2	47.1	3.7	29.9	6.6
Children's education	Female	6.8	10.3	49.6	6.2	24.2	2.9
	Male	8.0	8.2	57.0	4.3	20.0	2.6
Health/treatment expenses	Female	10.7	9.5	50.4	18.9	4.0	6.5
	Male	12.9	4.7	61.3	11.7	4.4	4.9
Investments in family business activities	Female	18.9	3.5	24.8	8.8	27.3	16.8
	Male	25.5	0.8	29.0	6.7	28.2	9.7

Via behavioral questions we wanted to find out whether men and women enjoy equal rights in different social spheres in general terms: family, friends' circle, work and community. Since it would not be easy for the respondents to give general evaluation to a woman's condition of rights, we asked questions about their personal experience. Despite the above, respondents still were not often able to estimate these factors. Almost a quarter of the respondents finds it difficult to estimate women's condition of rights, in the community and one fifth of them cannot estimate women's condition of rights, in a friends' circle.³⁸ The respondents were to estimate women's condition of rights, on a 4-point scale (the answer "It does not concern me" was among the choices for that case if the family did not have members of both sexes or if a person did not have a job, etc.).

As the results have shown, the respondents mainly consider that women and men mostly enjoy equal rights in different spheres of social activities. Almost two-thirds of respondents consider that men and women enjoy equal rights in their families. Small differences in this regard have been observed according to gender. Women, more often than men, indicate the restriction of their rights in a family. In general, a small part of respondents (12%) speaks about the restriction of women's rights in a family. 8% of households cannot estimate the issue for the absence of adult members of both sexes in a family. Majority of the employed population notes that women's rights are protected at work. Restriction of women's rights is mostly revealed in communities as is stated by almost a quarter of respondents (24.3%). A small part of respondents mention partial or full restriction of women's rights in the circle of friends (13.1%), while 86.9% note about full or partial protection of women's rights.

Table № L2: Do women enjoy equal rights in ... (means with 4- meaning – they do, 1 – they don't)



³⁸ This may be caused by the absence of women in the friends' circle of men which speaks by itself for the high level of gender inequality.

Graph N L12 shows the means in ethnic section. As we can see, the respondents of Azeri origin most often indicate inequality of women's rights, especially in the community and at workplace. This once again verifies the results of the previous question that family and children is the sphere of women's dominance, while social and economic activities – men's.

Apart from general questions, we attempted to learn about gender equality in a family by concrete behavioral questions about who does this or that activity in the family. The results show that in Kvemo Kartli households, the functions of men and women are clearly defined (see Table N L3).

Firstly, let us touch upon the activities that are clearly ascribed to either of genders. Almost in the absolute majority of families, women clean the house, cook food and do the washing. In those families where there is a child, an aged or a sick person, woman's main function is to look after them. The survey research has revealed that man's function mainly is to take care of heating of the house, or do repairs. At a first glance it could be said that house jobs are divided according to physical strength, but the fact like carrying water, which in 27.8% of families is the job done by a woman and in 20.9% - by a man, proves the contrary. Working on the land or taking care of livestock are the activities mostly done by men. However, the survey results show that these functions are mostly performed by all members of the family. In general terms, different jobs in a family are distributed mostly according to established cultural stereotypes (woman's job/man's job) rather than according to physical strength. A significant difference has been revealed in gender perspective; representatives of both sexes ascribe this or that function to having a bigger weight. This especially concerns gender-neutral activities (i.e. activities that are not ascribed to either genders), for instance, carrying water, working on the land, taking care of livestock, taking care of heating, supplying the family with food, paying bills.

Table № L4: Who performs the following functions in your family? (% indicators)

	Woman	Man	Child	All members of the family	Difficult to answer
Carrying water	27.8	20.9	2.9	42.4	6.1
Working on the land	7.0	38.9	0.3	48.1	5.6
Taking care of livestock	13.0	29.1	0.3	50.3	7.3
Heating the house	5.4	66.4	0.4	20.6	7.2
House repairs	5.2	73.9	0.2	13.6	7.1
Food supplies	28.9	35.4	0.6	33.1	2.1
Cooking food	87.0	1.0	0.0	10.3	1.7
Taking care of the aged persons	68.2	1.5	0.3	25.5	4.4
Taking care of sick persons	66.8	1.2	0.5	26.9	4.5
Helping children with homework	65.7	1.4	5.3	23.0	4.6
Taking care of children	68.7	1.4	0.8	26.0	3.0
Paying bills	29.2	36.1	1.1	31.4	2.2
Washing	88.4	0.6	0.1	9.1	1.9
Cleaning the house	88.6	0.6	0.1	8.8	1.9

In the process of gender equality survey, we offered the respondents 7 contradictory statements concerning general social behavior of men and women. The respondents were to express how much they agreed to each of the statements. Table N L5 shows the detailed results of the survey.

Table № L5: How much do you agree with the statements below? (% indicators)

	Strongly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly disagree	Difficult to answer
Woman should not spend her income without family's consent	61.6	17.6	17.8	3.0
Man should not spend his income without family's consent	54.9	22.2	19.3	3.6
Woman should restrain themselves from sexual relationships until marriage	84.6	8.0	3.8	3.6
Man should restrain themselves from sexual relationships until marriage	39.5	18.6	32.2	9.7
Marriages should be arranged	26.6	31.8	35.9	5.7
Couples should only marry for love	76.2	18.3	1.5	4.1
In case of husband's adultery, the wife should require a divorce	32.4	25.1	25.5	17.0
In case of wife's adultery, the husband should require a divorce	69.2	12.7	6.8	11.3
Parents' real estate should be left to a son	45.0	18.5	28.3	8.2
Parents' real estate should be distributed among children irrespective of their sex	50.3	21.5	20.1	8.1
Wife should not take decisions without agreeing with husband	69.9	18.1	7.2	4.8
Husband should not take decisions without agreeing with wife	58.6	24.7	11.4	5.3
Legal right on family's real estate should be the man's (the head of the family) privilege	37.9	20.0	32.7	9.4
Legal right on family's real estate should equally belong to man and woman.	59.1	15.5	14.1	11.3

As we see from the data, more than half of the respondents consider that both women and men should agree how to spend money with a family. In this case slightly more respondents support financial independence of men. According to ethnic perspective, (see Graph N L3), the respondents of Azeri origin support the opinion that spending finances should be agreed with the family despite the gender of the person owning the financial resources, while Georgians and Armenians support the independence of a breadwinner of both sexes more. Majority of respondents also considers that spouses should reconcile their decision with other family members. However, similar to the previous case, a larger part of respondents support taking decision by a man without consulting the wife. In this case men feel more strongly that the wife should reconcile the decision with her husband. No significant differences have been observed in terms of ethnicity.

84.6% of respondents consider it necessary that women should restrain from premarital sex relationship. It is interesting, that women support the restriction of women having premarital sex as much as men

(difference in their positions is negligible). Representatives of all four ethnic groups equally indicate restriction of premarital sex for women. Quite a large part of respondents (39.5%) supports the restriction of man having premarital sex. More than one third of men (38.1%) and 26.4% of women do not agree with the above opinion. Interestingly, respondents of Azeri and Armenian origin support that men should restrain from premarital sex. Georgian respondents reveal a dual morality regarding premarital sex, noting that men should have freedom, while women should be restricted.

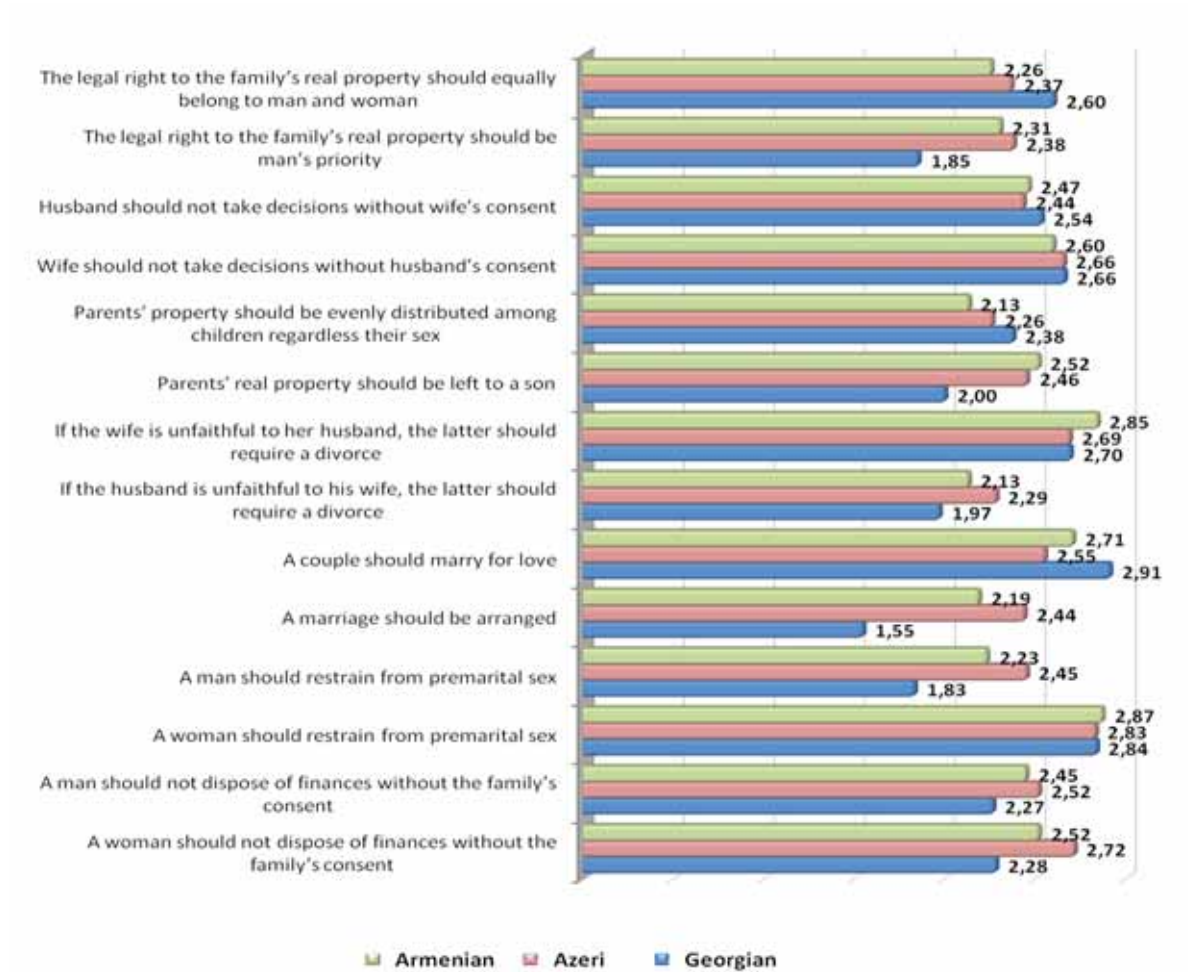
Regarding arranged marriages, the respondents' answers are evenly distributed among all three categories of assessment. Most positive assessment on an arranged marriage is given by Azeri respondents, followed by Armenians, while Georgians object to it more than others. Most of the respondents, regardless their sex (76.2%) support marrying for love. Majority of Georgian respondents support marrying for love.

Significant differences are revealed regarding divorces as a result of adultery. As it was expected, only one third of respondents support the divorce in the case of husband's adultery. And of course, mostly men indicate the necessity of maintaining the family in the above case. It is interesting, that Georgian respondents more often consider that the family must be maintained in the case of husband's adultery. Although Georgian respondents basically agree with the statement that if a wife is unfaithful to her husband, they should divorce. Such opinion is supported by the majority of respondents (69.9%) and naturally, men are more radical regarding this issue.

A large part of respondents supports the distribution of property to their children in a traditional way; i.e. 45% of respondents consider that the son should inherit parents' real estate. Men support the sole right to inheritance of representatives of their sex. The statement is mostly supported by the representatives of ethnic minorities. Half of the respondents (50.3%) support equal distribution of property among children (no major differences are observed in gender and ethnic perspective). According to 37.9% of the interviewed, a man should have the legal right to inherit property. The above opinion is shared by men mostly, and according to ethnicity – by ethnic minorities. Majority (59.1%) of respondents considers that both men and women should have equal right to property. Women support equality of property rights, regardless the sex, more than men. The above is more often supported by Georgian respondents.

Graph №L4 shows the means of the assessments of this statement in ethnic perspective. Let us look at respondents' assessments according to ethnic perspective.

Graph № L4: Which statement do you support? (Means in ethnic perspective: 3- strongly agree, 1 – strongly disagree)



Attitude of the population towards various governmental and non-governmental sectors functioning in Kvemo Kartli

Summary

No democratization process can ever develop without having civil society in place. In western countries civil society was established in the process of historical development. Most experts point out that effective civil society has not been established yet in Georgia.³⁹ Some researchers name non-governmental network as being a fragment of a civil society, although they question their efficiency in terms of their impact on the society. Non-governmental organizations are more numerous represented in Kvemo Kartli compared to other regions, especially the ones established by ethnic minorities or/and those working on ethnic minority issues. Non-governmental organizations were involved in this

³⁹ UN Development Program. 2011. Peace and Development Program: Process of democratization, culture and values (analytical report)

research at its qualitative stage. They consider that the population is not interested in cooperation with them and only address non-governmental sector, when some problems arise. Among the problems existing in this sector, representatives of non-governmental organizations named the lack of finances and indifference of the representatives of local authorities in terms of cooperation.

At the quantitative stage of the research we attempted to find out the recognizability of non-governmental organizations functioning in Kvemo Kartli region and to assess their activities according to local population's estimates. The research results show that a large part of the population has no information about the activities of non-governmental organizations, or if they do, it is not adequate. That part which is relatively informed, estimates the effect of non-governmental sector neutrally.

Public institutions and policy affect the welfare of any society and one of the indicators of democratic governance is the inclusion of a wide range of social strata in political processes. We could use different indicators to identify public involvement: the level of interest in political processes, awareness about government structures, dialogue between government structures and population and trust towards various governing structures.

The research results have shown that the majority of Kvemo Kartli population shows indifferent attitude towards politics. Respondents speak about it overtly when being asked the question concerning their interest in politics. This is also revealed in the low level of awareness about political figures and on-going political events. It turned out that men are more interested in politics than women. According to ethnic section, Georgian and Greek population show higher interest in politics than Azeri and Armenian respondents. Dialogue between the population and governing and self-governing structures is not so successful. Governing structures reveal high level of indifference towards the solution of ethnic conflicts.

Kvemo Kartli populations often refrain from giving their assessment to governing or business structures, mass media, or non-governmental organizations. The most positive assessments population reveals towards religious institutions. However, hereby we should take into account that majority of the population reveals religious centrism and give negative assessment to various religious institutions.

A large part of Kvemo Kartli population finds it difficult to assess the level of their own trust towards the governing and self-governing bodies in the region and district. However, when assessments are made, they mainly fall under the field of trust. The level of recognizability of political parties is also low among Kvemo Kartli population. The ruling party mostly stands out in terms of recognizability, as well as positive assessment.

It should be noted that the trends differ from district to district in Kvemo Kartli. For instance, the level of awareness about governing and self-governing structures as well as trust towards them is high in Tsalka district, while Marneuli district stands out for its excessive indifference. Differences between districts are basically caused by ethnic composition. The level of awareness of political processes and existing institutions in districts inhabited by mostly Azeri population is mainly low.

Estimation of non-governmental structures

Respondents were given open-ended questions where they had to name 5 non-governmental organizations that have been functioning in their community for the last three years. The survey has shown that only 2.5% of respondents could name one or two organizations including some, not even having the above status. For instance, among “non-governmental organizations” were named the following: Parents’ Union, United Nations Organization, USAID, CIDA, etc. (By the way, CIDA turned out to be the most recognizable, with 21 votes). Mostly recognizable non-governmental organizations in Kvemo Kartli are Young Lawyers’ Association (named by seven respondents) and CARE (named by nineteen respondents).

Table №S1: What impact does non-governmental sector have on local processes (% indicators according to settlements)

	Town	Village	Total
Very strong impact	3.6	8.5	6.6
More or less strong impact	8.9	9.6	9.3
Very small impact	4.2	2.3	3.1
No impact at all	7.4	14.1	11.5
Difficult to answer	75.8	65.4	69.5

As Table №S1 shows, most of the population has difficulty in the assessment of the impact of non-governmental sector on local processes. This is in the first place due to the lack of information about non-governmental organizations. A small part that is informed about non-governmental sector considers that it has a certain impact on processes taking place in Kvemo Kartli. According to settlements, it is interesting to see that the respondents living in town type settlements are better oriented and can assess the impact of non-governmental sector. However, these assessments are limited basically to the fact that non-governmental organizations have no impact at all on local processes. According to district perspective, Bolnisi and Dmanisi district inhabitants note about the significant impact of non-governmental sector more, while in Marneuli and Tetritskharo districts they indicate only a small impact of these organizations.

Majority of KvemoKartli population (72.5%) also finds it difficult to estimate the activities of non-governmental sector. A small part of local population that is informed about non-governmental sector, mostly gives positive or neutral assessment to the activities of non-governmental sector (Table N S2).

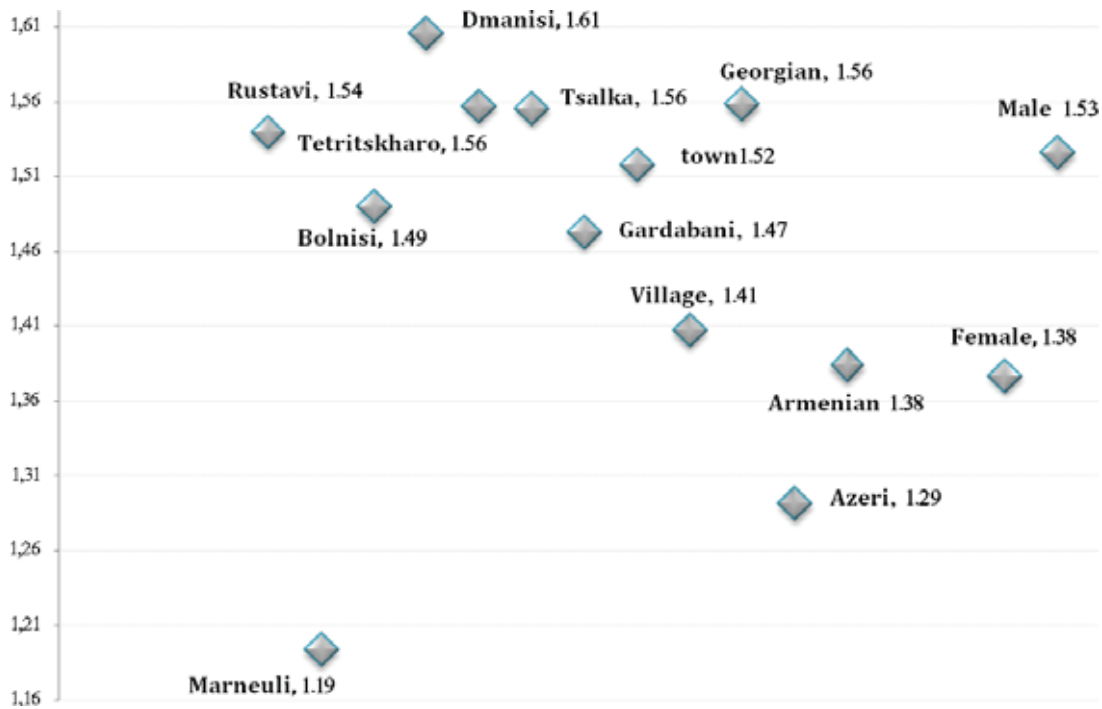
Table №S2: How would you estimate the activities of public sector in Kvemo Kartli region? (% indicators)

Evaluation scale	% indicators
Positively	6.1
Rather positively than negatively	7.1
Neither positively, nor negatively	11.7
Rather negatively, than positively	0.7
Negatively	1.9
Difficult to answer	72.5

State institutions and public policy

It can be seen from the results of the research that majority of the population in Kvemo Kartli is not interested in politics (62.6%). 27.5% is more or less interested in politics, and 8.6% is interested in it. Graph N S1 reflects the distribution of means according to different groups (namely, gender, type of settlement, districts, and nationalities).

Graph №S1: How much are you interested in politics (means: 1 – I am not interested, 3 – I am interested)

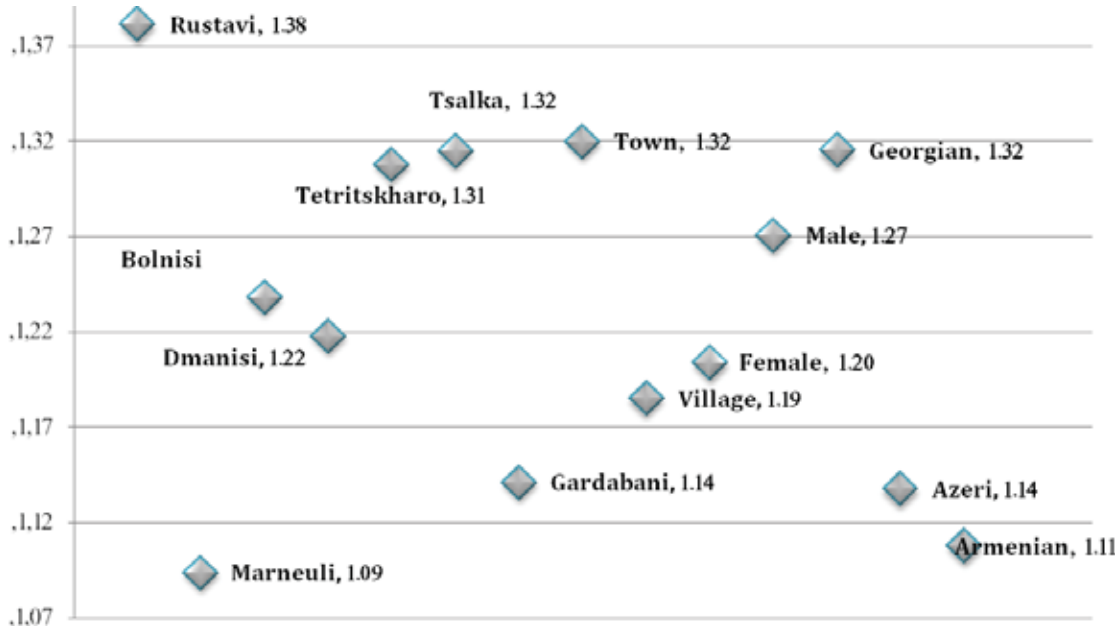


As is shown on the graph, men are relatively more interested in politics than women. According to ethnic section, Georgians and Armenians have shown highest interest in politics, while Azeris are the least interested. In district perspective, the interest towards politics is high in Dmanisi, Tsalka and Rustavi, while the population in Marneuli district reveals the most indifference towards political processes (this is due to the fact that Marneuli is mainly populated by Azeris).

Since Kvemo Kartli population is less interested in politics, they have relatively scarce information about the activities and duties of local self-government and government bodies. 78.7% of Kvemo Kartli population is not informed about the activities and duties of local self-government and government bodies, only 3.7% of the interviewed is quite informed and 15.8% is partly informed. Graph N S2 shows the means of the level of awareness of different social groups (3- meant “I am quite informed” and 1 – “I am not informed”). Women, compared to men, are less informed. This once again proves the fact that community and social issues in Kvemo Kartli region is mainly men’s domain. Village population compared to town population is less informed; in ethnic perspective, Georgians are better informed.

According to districts, Rustavi population has most information about the activities of local self-government and government bodies, followed by Tsalka and Tetrtskharo districts. There is the shortage of information in Marneuli and Gardabani districts.

Table №S2: How much are you informed about the activities and duties of local self-government and government bodies? (means: 1- “I am not informed” , 3 – “I am quite informed”)



As we have already mentioned, the process of democratization requires close cooperation between government bodies and population. To measure the level of cooperation between Kvemo Kartli governing bodies and population, we have defined five indicators, among which number one is the population’s involvement in the process of local budget formation. Budget discussions take place publicly. However, the representatives of local non-governmental organizations in focus-groups under the survey stated that the citizens’ interest to attend the budget formation process in their locality is very low. Survey results show that majority of the population (84.9%) does not know if any meetings of local self-governing bodies with population are held during the budget formation process. 12% considers that such meeting never take place. 4.9% of respondents say that local self-governing bodies sometimes meet with population to discuss budget-related issues, and 1.9% considers that such meetings are often held.

Meetings of self-governing bodies with population to identify priorities among districts and towns are held rarely as well. 81.5% of the respondents have no information about the above. 11.6% of respondents indicate that such meetings never take place. According to 5.4% of the interviewed, meetings of self-governing bodies with population to identify local priorities do take place sometimes and 1.4% notes that such meetings are always held.

Due to ethnic diversity of Kvemo Kartli region, the involvement of representatives of governing structures together with the population is also important for solving ethnic problems. Meetings of the representatives of government structures with the population to solve the above issues quite rarely take place. Majority of the population (82.3%) has no information regarding this issue. Two-thirds of the informed population (i.e. 13.3% of the interviewed) considers that such meetings are never held. 3.5% of respondents consider that the representatives of local government sometimes hold the meetings with population to solve ethnic problems, and 0.8% considers that such meetings are often held.

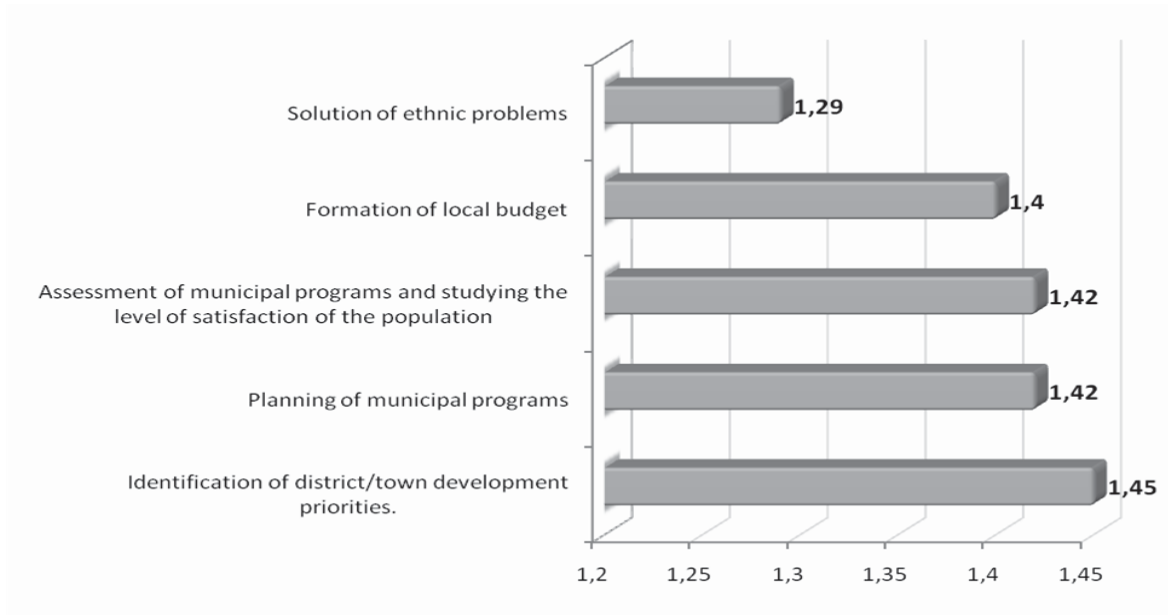
Holding meetings with population, while planning the municipal programs, is also less common in Kvemo Kartli region. Majority of respondents has no information about the issue (81.9%). The large part of the rest of the population (i.e. the informed part of the population) - 11.9%, considers that such meetings are never held. 6.8% of the interviewed give positive answers to the above question; 1.5% out of them considers that the meetings are always held and 4% says they are held occasionally.

The fifth criterion for the identification of the dialogue between local government and population was the assessment of the implemented municipal programs and the level of satisfaction among population. In the phase of implementation of reforms, dialogue between the representatives of government and population is crucially important in order to determine the efficiency of programs and the level of satisfaction of the population. The dialogue between the representatives of government and population regarding the above issues rarely takes place in Kvemo Kartli. 82.2% of the interviewed has no information about the above. 11.6% considers that such dialogue has never occurred. 6.2% of the interviewed give positive answers. 1.3% out of them considers that such dialogues always take place and 4.9% thinks that the dialogues take place occasionally.

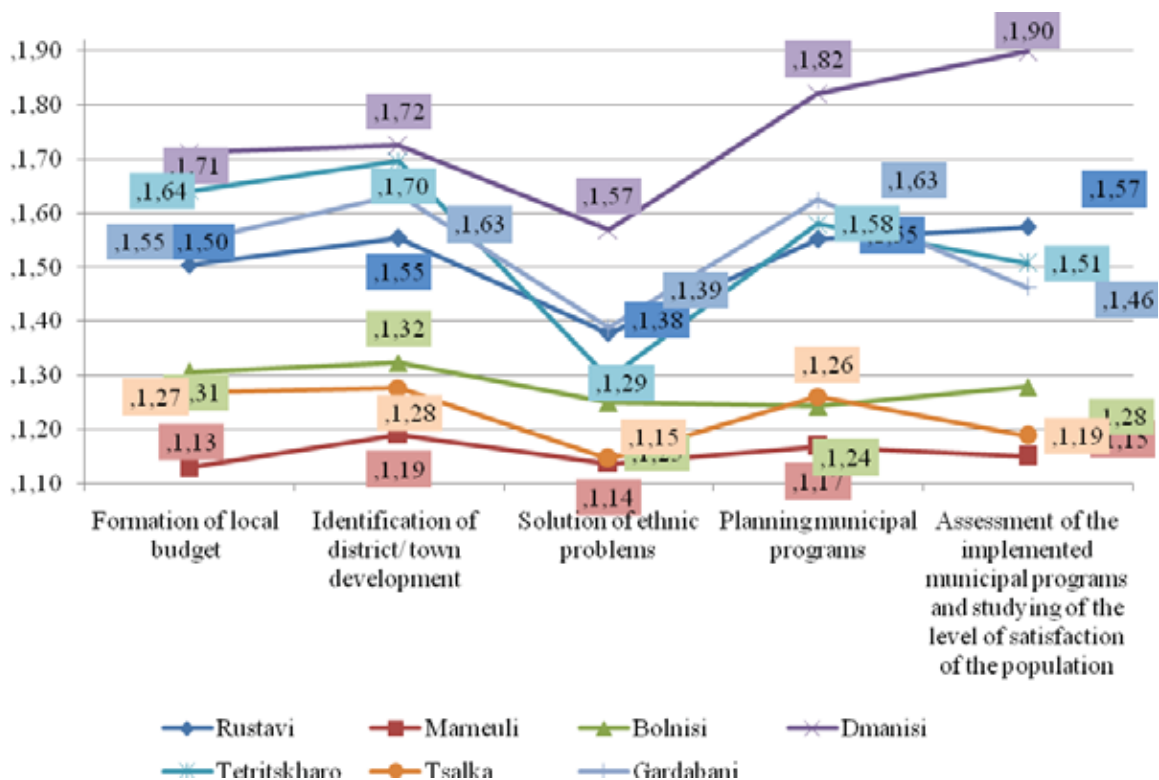
Graph №S3 shows the means of five criteria on the cooperation between local government and population. The lower the mean the more rarely the meetings of local self-governing bodies and the population are held. Comparison of five issues makes it clear that the dialogue between population and governing bodies most often takes place for the identification of district/town development priorities. This factor is important partially due to on-going rural support programs. As we can see from the results of the research, the representatives of local government are the least involved in solution of ethnic problems.

Graph №S4 shows the means of meetings of self-governing bodies with population by different districts of Kvemo Kartli. According to the graph, the dialogue between population and local government least frequently takes place in Marneuli, Tsalka and Bolnisi districts. Rustavi has a medium position. More intensively the dialogue is held in Dmanisi, Tetrtskharo and Gardabani districts. However, the representatives of local governments in all regions are less involved in solving ethnic problems.

Graph №S3: Are any meetings between local self-governing bodies and the population held to solve the following problems? (Means: 3 – often, 2- occasionally, 3- rarely)



Graph №S4: Means of meetings of local government bodies with population held to discuss various issues (1- never; 2 – sometimes; 3- often)

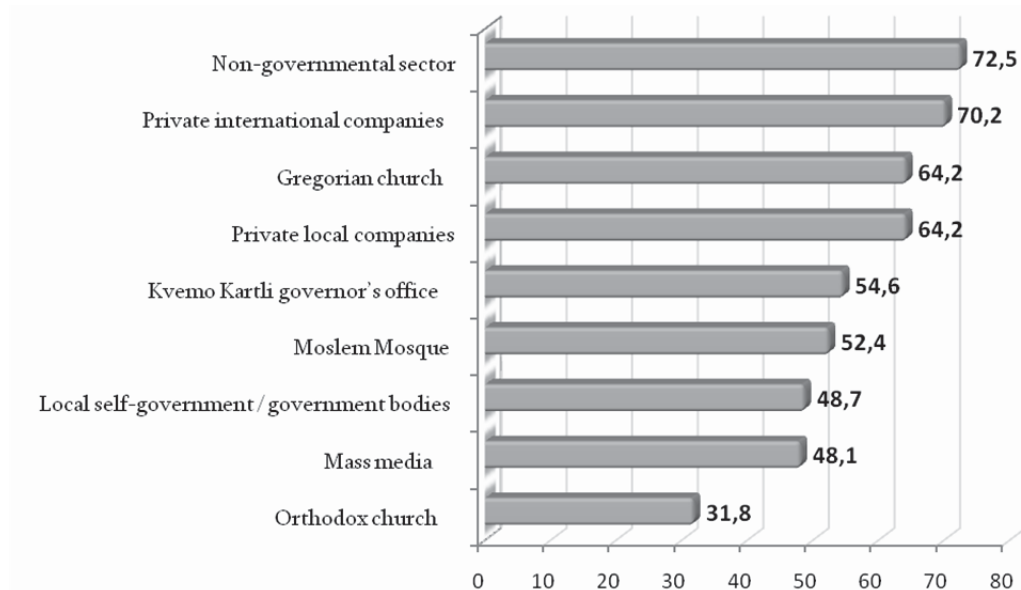


While conducting the survey we attempted to find out if Kvemo Kartli population has taken part in the process of budget planning of their “Sakrebulo” (the local governing body). As the research data show, almost one-fifth (18.6%) of the population does not even know about the above possibility. 76.8% has never participated in budget planning. Only 1.3% of the interviewed citizens have taken part in the above activity. Despite the fact that the number of participants in budget planning is small, it is still interesting to see which social group reveals most civil activity. No differences have been observed between town and village. As it was expected, mostly men take part in budget planning. According to ethnicity, Georgian population reveals higher activeness than Armenians and Azeris. District perspective gives an interesting picture. Citizens’ involvement in the process of budget planning in Dmanisi and Tetritskharo district is slightly high. In Rustavi, Gardabani and Tsalka the indicator was average. In Marneuli no such cases have been reported and in Bolnisi there is only an insignificant number.

Various institutions or organizations are functioning in Kvemo Kartli that have different impact on processes going on in the region and get different assessment by local population. In the process of the research we attempted to find out how the population of Kvemo Kartli estimates the activities of different structures, how much trust they have in self-governing bodies and what their attitude is towards political parties. Below we will discuss each of the above issues.

We presented 9 different structures to Kvemo Kartli population and they were to estimate their activities. Quite a large part of the population refrained from the assessment of some of the structures. Graph N S5 shows the data of those who refrained from assessment expressed in percentage. As we see, the population finds it the easiest to assess the activities of the Orthodox Church, followed by media and local government. Kvemo Kartli seems to have the least information on non-governmental sector, in particular, on international business, which is the reason of having difficulties in assessment.

Graph №S5: Indicators of refrains from assessment of different structures expressed in percentage



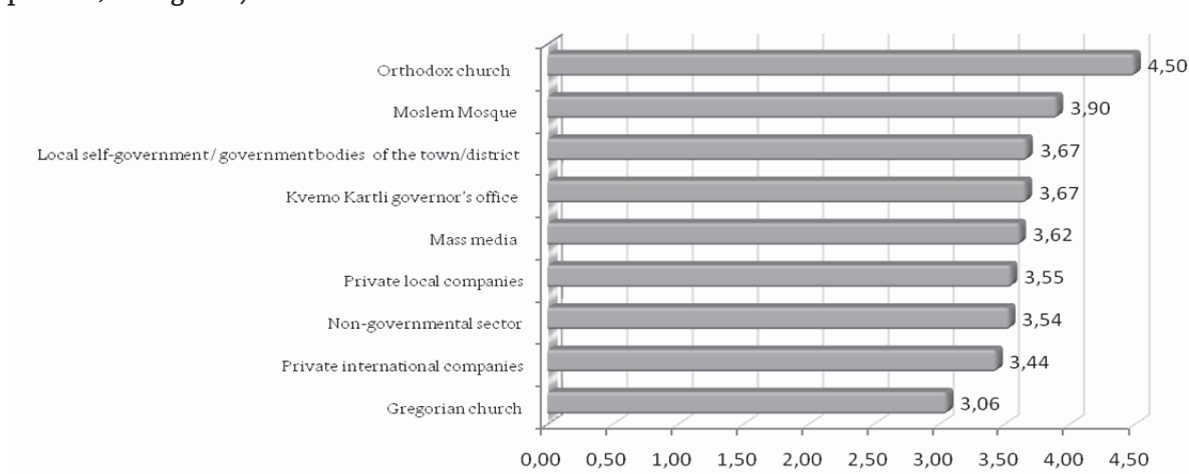
Research results have revealed that the interviewed populations of Kvemo Kartly assess functioning of the above listed institutions mainly positively or neutrally. The institutions towards which the interviewed population has quite a negative position are The Armenian Apostolic Church (10.8% of respondents assess their activity negatively) and Mosque (7.6% of respondents assess their activity negatively). The results of the research have corroborated that the representatives of different confessions living in Kvemo Kartli have negative attitude to other religious institutions. Graph N S3 shows the sum total of negative assessments towards three religious institutions of Kvemo Kartli region made by the followers of three dominant religions. As we can see from results, Orthodox Church followers have the most negative attitude to The Armenian Apostolic Church and Moslem Mosque. Negative attitude towards The Armenian Apostolic Church is caused on the one hand by the fact that the process of field work coincided with discussions about the transfer of churches to The Armenian Apostolic Church. Consequently, negative assessment of The Armenian Apostolic Church made by Orthodox population is the response to the agitation caused by the event of those times. However, apart from discussions about Armenian churches, the population’s assessment of “other religious institutions” is generally negative. For example, Moslem population living in Kvemo Kartli also negatively (though less than the Orthodox population) assess The Armenian Apostolic and Orthodox churches. In terms of assessment, followers of the Armenian Apostolic Church reveal less religious centrism, but the trend of negative assessments of other religious institutions is still obvious in this case.

Table №S3: Negative assessments of Orthodox, Moslem and the Armenian Apostolic Church institutions by the followers of the above religions

	Orthodox Church	Moslem Mosque	The Armenian Apostolic Church
Orthodox	0.6%	33.1%	33.6%
Moslem	21.5%	2.0%	27.6%
The Armenian Apostolic Church	6.3%	8.3%	0.9%

Graph N S6 shows means of assessments given to activities of different institutions (the assessment was made on a 5-point scale with 1 meaning - “Very negative” and 5- “Very positive”; consequently, the lower the mean of assessment, the more negative the assessment of any given structure is). The data show that the activities of two religious institutions (particularly, that of Orthodox Church and Moslem Mosque) get the most positive assessment. It is easy to explain, since Moslem and Orthodox population are the two main religious groups constituting Kvemo Kartli population (which cannot be said of The Armenian Apostolic Church parish. Accordingly, in spite of the fact that this church falls under the field of positive assessment, it gets a low indicator). Local self-government and government bodies and governor’s office were given equal points on the assessment scale by Kvemo Kartli respondents and this trend tends to be positive. Kvemo Kartli populations assess the activities of government bodies of the region more positively than that of mass media, non-governmental organizations and business sector.

Graph №S6: Assessment of activities of different institutions functioning in Kvemo Kartli (means: 5-positive, 1- negative)



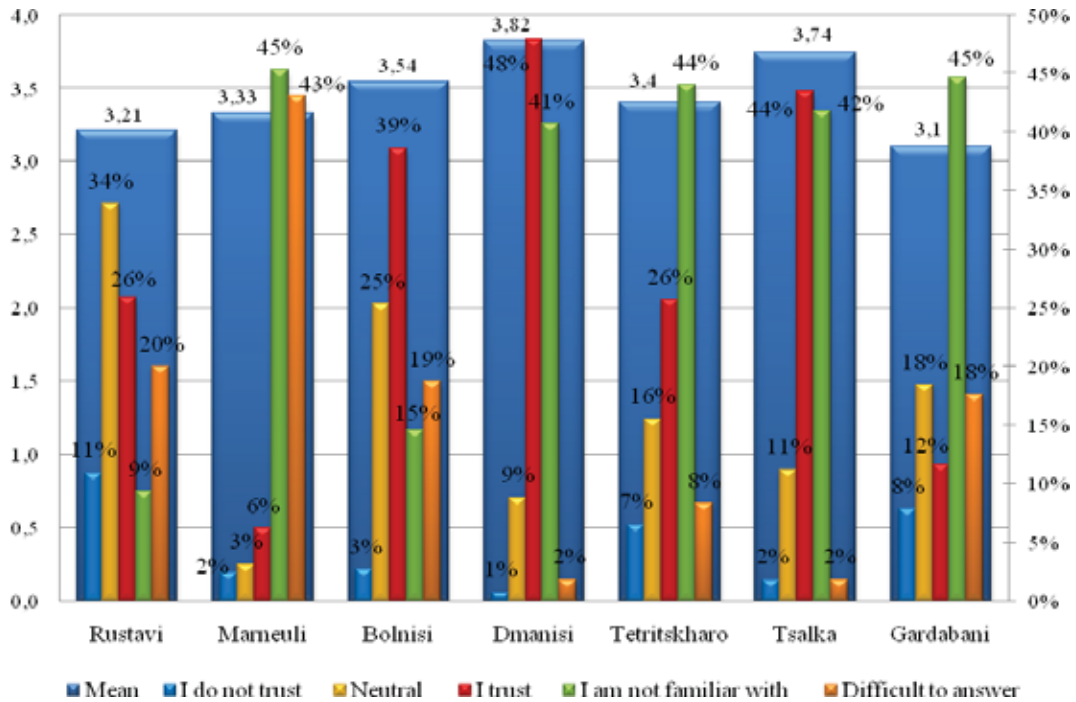
Apart from evaluating activities of separate institutions, we also studied the level of trust of the population in various local and government bodies or their representatives (the level of trust was assessed on a 5-point scale; with 1 meaning –complete distrust, and 5- complete trust).

Respondents assessed the trust towards Kvemo Kartli Governor. Indifferent attitude to politics affects the respondents' general assessments in this case as well. Namely, 29.8% of Kvemo Kartli population does not know the Governor of their region. The share of respondents who find it difficult to assess their trust towards the Governor of Kvemo Kartli region is high (21.5%). 23.3% trust the Governor of the region. In this regard, 19.4% of respondents have neutral attitudes towards the Governor and 5.9% say they rather do not trust the Governor.

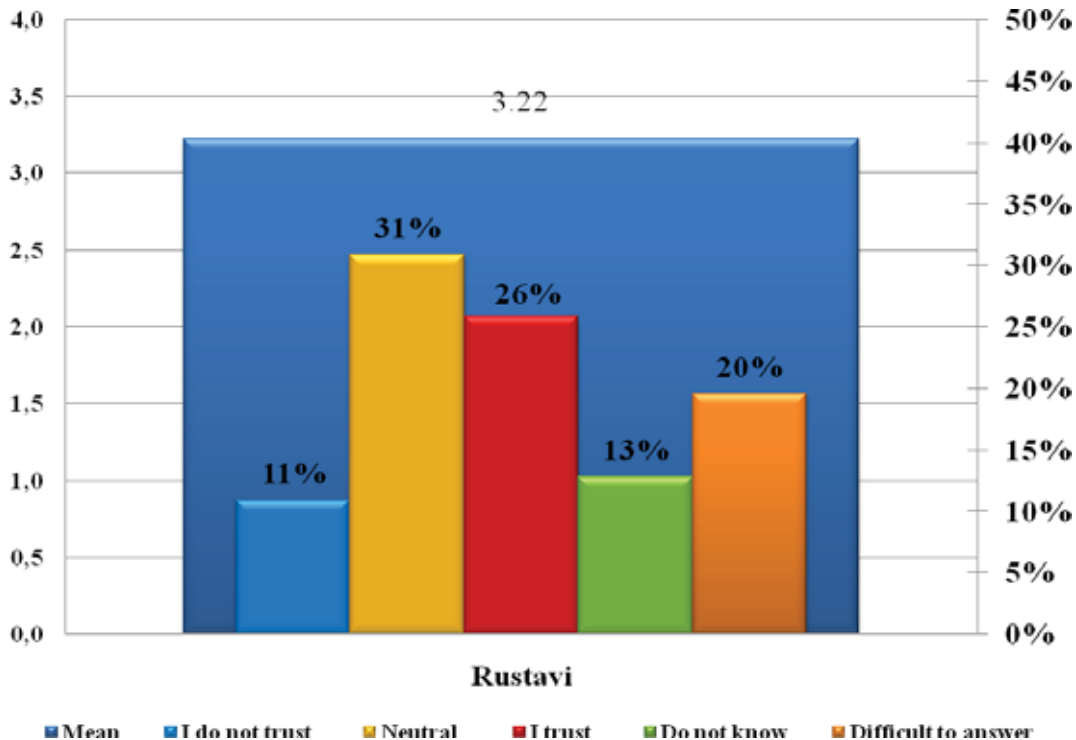
It is interesting that the mean of the trust level towards the Governor on the same 5-point scale is 3.6, i.e. this assessment falls under the positive field of trust. Graph N S7 presents the indicators expressed in % indicators and means in district perspective regarding the trust towards the Governor of Kvemo Kartli (the higher the mean, the more positive the level of trust is revealed among Kvemo Kartli population).

12.8% of the population living in Rustavi does not know the Mayor of the town, and 19.6% finds it difficult to assess their trust level. 30.9% of Rustavi population has neutral position towards Rustavi Mayor. The share of negative assessment is low (10.9%) and a quarter of the population (25.9%) trusts the Mayor. The mean on a 5-point scale of the level of trust is 3.4, which shows that the assessment falls under positive field (see the data on Graph N S8).

Graph №S7: Assessment of the level of trust towards Kvemo Kartli Governor made by Kvemo Kartli population (data expressed in % indicators and means according to districts)

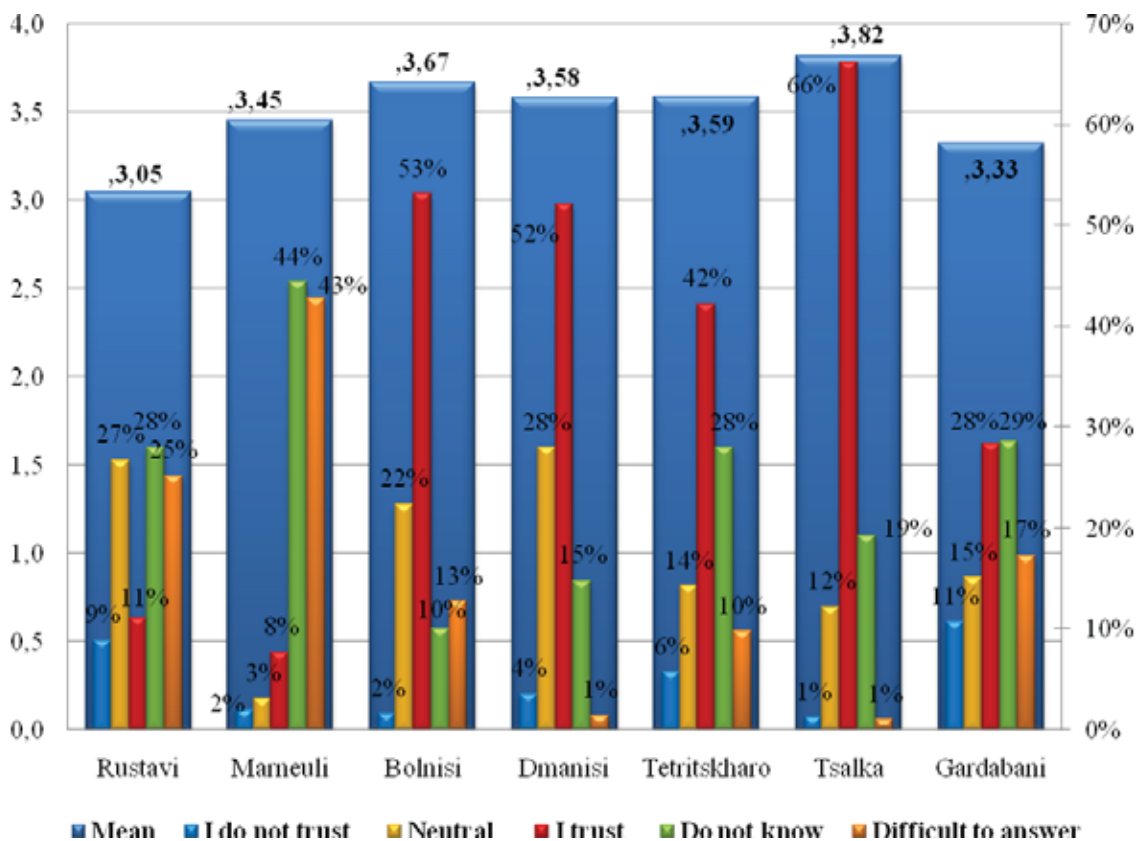


Graph №S8: Assessment of the level of trust towards the Mayor of Rustavi made by Rustavi population (% indicators and means)



During this survey, we also measured the level of trust of the population towards Kvemo Kartli authorized persons of local administration, the so called *Gamgebeli* (see Graph N S10). As we can see from the results, most of the population in Marneuli district is not familiar with *Gamgebeli* or is not able to assess the level of their trust. Gardabani and Tetrtskharo inhabitants also frequently note that they do not know their *Gamgebeli*. However, those respondents who provide the assessments mainly have trust towards these persons. The data show that the highest level of trust towards *Gamgebeli* is revealed among the population of Tsalka, Dmanisi and Bolnisi districts.

Graph №S10: How much do you trust *Gamgebeli* in your district (% indicators and means according to districts sections) (the higher the mean, the more positive the level of trust is among Kvemo Kartli population)



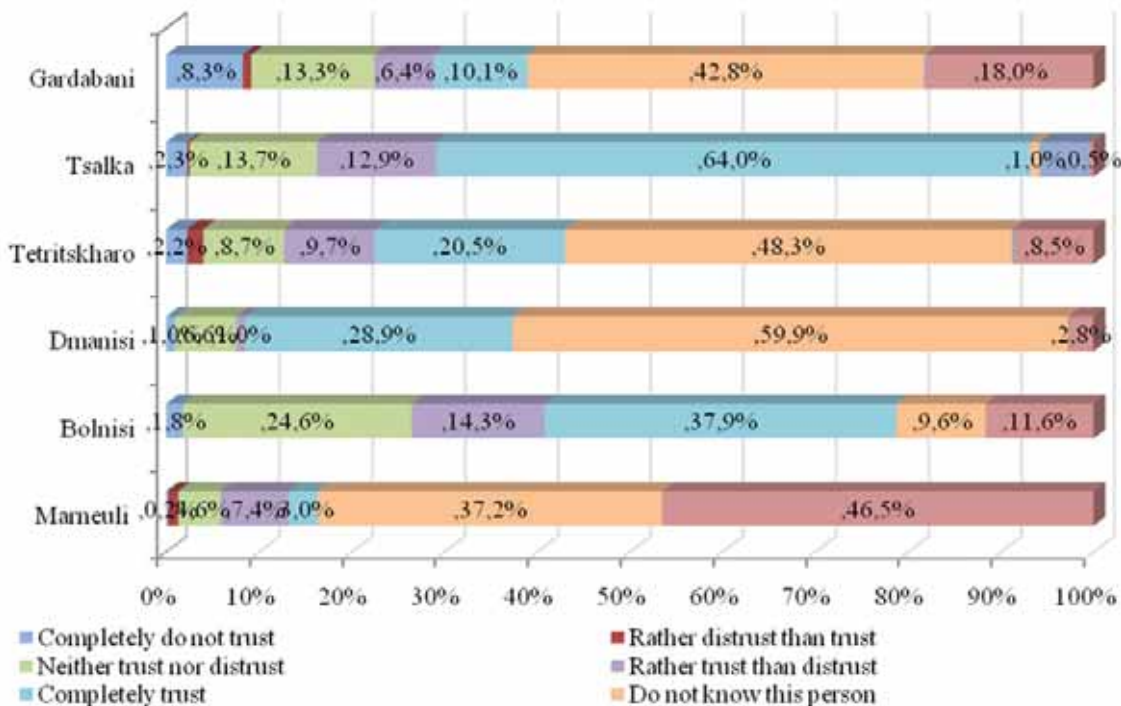
Respondents living in Rustavi were to assess additionally the level of trust towards the heads of territorial bodies of City Hall. As Table N S4 shows, a large part of Rustavi population cannot give the assessment of the heads of territorial bodies which is due to the fact that they either do not know those authorities or say that there is no such authority with the above status in their area, or else they simply find it difficult to assess the level of trust. Among those who assess, neutral dispositions prevail ('I neither trust nor distrust'). Positive level of trust towards the heads of territorial bodies of Rustavi City Hall slightly exceeds the negative indicators of the level of trust.

Table №S4: The level of trust towards the local heads of territorial bodies among Rustavi population (% indicators)

Completely do not trust	Rather distrust than trust	Neither trust nor distrust	Rather trust than distrust	Completely trust	Do not know this person	We do not have such authority with the above status	Difficult to answer
7.8%	1.3%	27.0%	2.4%	7.8%	14.8%	10.9%	28.0%

Similarly, Kvemo Kartli population was to assess the level of trust towards the authorized person of local administration (Gamageoba). Graph N S11 reflects the attitudes of population in separate districts of Kvemo Kartli towards the authorized persons of local administration. The results have shown that most of Tsalka population trusts the authorized person of local administration (64% - “completely trust”, and 12.9% - “rather trust”). The high level of trust is expressed by Bolnisi, Dmanisi and Tetrtskharo population. Most part of Marneuli population either does not know the authorized person of local administration or finds it difficult to answer. It is typical that the assessments of Gagebeli and their authorized representative reflect similar trends, which was anticipated.

Graph №S11: How much do you trust the authorized representative of local administration (Gamageoba) (% indicators in district perspective)



Apart from local self-government and government structures, Kvemo Kartli population was to assess different political parties. We presented 14 parties to the population for assessment. Table N S5 presents the attitudes of Kvemo Kartli population towards political parties.

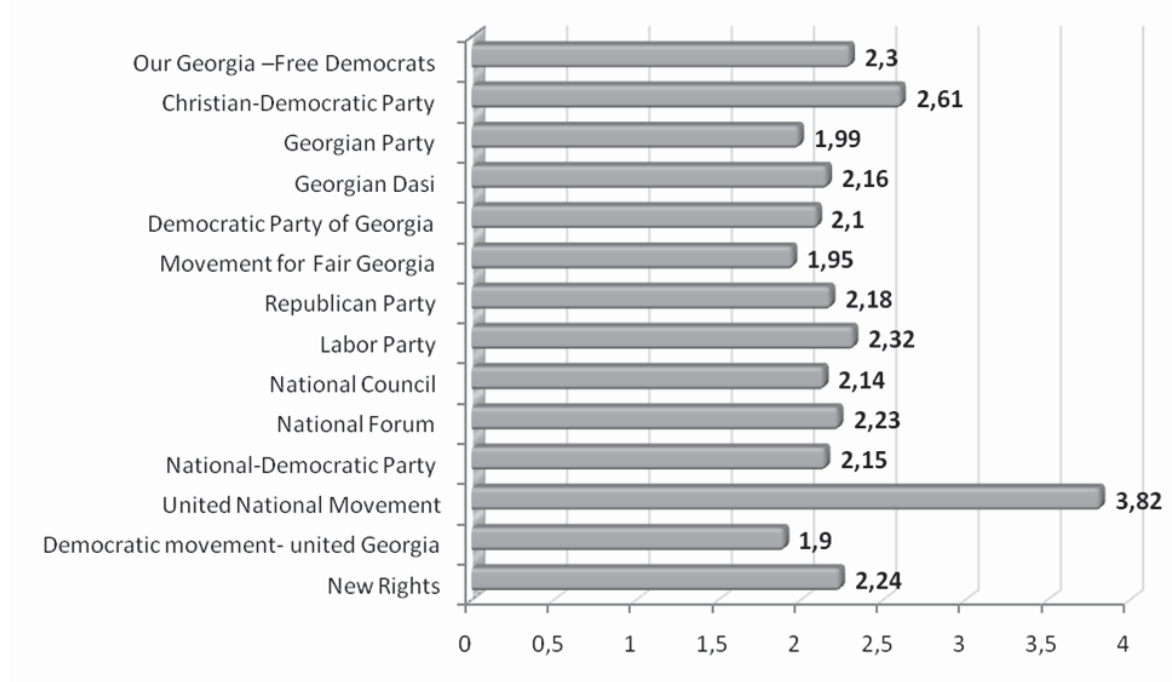
Table №S5: Attitude to political parties (% indicators)

	Very negative	More negative	Neutral	More positive	Very positive	Have not heard about this party	Refused to answer	Difficult to answer
New Rights (D. Gamkhrelidze)	17.0	6.5	23.9	1.9	0.5	18.0	10.3	22.0
Democratic movement- united Georgia (N. Burjanadze)	25.4	7.9	18.5	0.4	0.2	16.5	10.0	21.1
United National Movement (M. Saakashvili)	6.3	2.6	19.1	17.5	29.6	1.2	8.2	15.6
National-Democratic Party (B. Kardava)	16.7	6.2	21.2	0.7	0.2	21.9	10.3	22.7
National Forum (K. Shartava, G. Sanikidze)	16.8	6.6	22.0	2.2	0.4	19.6	10.3	22.0
National Council (Z. Dzidziguri, K.Kukava)	18.3	7.5	21.6	1.4	0.2	18.9	10.3	21.8
Labor Party (Sh. Natelashvili)	16.8	7.0	22.2	3.6	1.2	17.8	10.3	21.2
Republican Party (David Usupashvili)	17.6	7.5	21.4	1.7	0.5	19.0	10.4	22.0
Movement for Fair Georgia (Z. Noghaideli)	22.6	7.6	18.9	0.4	0.2	18.4	10.4	21.5
Democratic Party of Georgia (G. Tortladze)	19.1	7.6	20.9	0.9	0.3	18.8	10.5	21.8
Georgian Dasi (J. Baghaturia)	18.0	7.8	21.3	1.5	0.5	18.6	10.4	22.0
Georgian Party (I. Okruashvili, S. Subari, E. Kitsmarishvili)	22.0	8.0	19.4	0.6	0.3	17.9	10.4	21.4
Christian-Democratic Party (G.Targamadze)	13.7	5.3	22.0	7.6	2.7	17.7	10.0	21.0
Our Georgia –Free Democrats (I. Alasania)	16.5	6.8	22.6	3.1	0.9	18.1	10.3	21.6

As the table shows, about one-fifth of the respondents have not heard about all of the political parties. One –tenth of respondents refuse to assess almost all political parties and more than one –fifth finds it difficult to express their attitude. The only exception is “United National Movement”, which is the most recognizable and most frequently assessed by respondents. Graph N S12 reflects means of Kvemo Kartli population’s attitudes towards different political parties (indicators are given on a 5-point scale with 1 meaning “Very negative”, and 5- “Very positive”). Kvemo Kartli population gives distinctly positive

assessment to the “United National Movement”. Among other 13 parties it is the only one that falls under the field of positive assessments. “Democratic movement- united Georgia”, “Movement for Fair Georgia” and “Georgian Party” are assessed especially negatively by Kvemo Kartli population. Assessments of political parties do not significantly change according to districts. Neither are there any essential differences according to ethnicity. Population of Azeri and Armenian origin give a relatively positive assessment to “United National Movement”, and among Georgian population “Christian-Democratic Movement” office is assessed slightly more positively.

Graph №S12: Means of Kvemo Kartli population’s attitudes towards different political parties (indicators are given on a 5-point scale with 1 meaning - “Very negative”, and 5- “Very positive” neutral point is 3; the data below 3 correspond to the negative field of assessment, and above 3 – to positive field of assessment).



Mass media

Summary

According to national concept on tolerance and civil integration developed by the Georgian government in 2009, it is important to implement special measures to ensure the provision of due information to ethnic minorities. The following tasks have been set in this direction: ensure the accessibility of national broadcast for regions inhabited by ethnic minorities; ensure the accessibility of broadcast in the languages of ethnic minorities; support electronic and printed media in the languages of ethnic minorities, etc.

Mass media plays an important role in the region densely populated by ethnic minorities, such as Kvemo Kartli. In this region sources of information are restricted which is due to low level of knowledge of Georgian language (the research has revealed that more than two-thirds of ethnic minorities in Kvemo Kartli do not speak Georgian). On the other hand, the above circumstances lead to the estrangement of ethnic minorities from Georgian society. According to National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration and the Action Plan Evaluation Report by Civil Development Agency (August, 2010 -2011)⁴⁰, majority of population gives advantage to Turkish and Russian channels. The main part of ethnic minorities does not watch news programs on national channels due to language barrier. To fill this vacuum, they watch the channels of other countries.

Keeping the population informed is a favorable factor which plays an important role in the inclusion of ethnic minorities in on-going processes and activities of the country (that are also beneficial for various ethnic minorities). The survey results show that the most popular source of information for Kvemo Kartli population is television. However, ethnic minorities give advantage to channels of neighboring countries since they can get information in their native language, for instance in the district densely populated by Azeris, they named AzTV which, according to the survey data is more popular in villages than in towns. Local TV factor has been distinguished (Marneuli TV). Due to the existing economic situation in the region, there is no Internet access in different districts except Rustavi. According to the size of viewers, the leader channel is “Rustavi 2” and “Imedi” that have a relatively high share in districts compactly populated by non-Georgians. Consequently, the trust index towards these channels is high. As for the press and radio, the level of the use of this media, as well as the trust index towards these sources is very low, which presumably correlates with low economic conditions and the population’s interests. Among printed media, most popular is the yellow press – “Kviris Palitra”, “Tbiliselebi” which contain little information on politics. However, it should be noted that in those districts of Kvemo Kartli where majority is non-Georgian population, press and radio are almost not used as a source of information (especially in villages).

Sources of information

The respondents were to name three main sources of information (see Table N Z1). Among the sources, the majority of respondents (44.4%) explicitly name television, followed by neighbors/friends (21%) and family members (13.3%).

In district section the following differences have been revealed: the Internet was named in Rustavi (unlike other districts). As of the primary source of information its indicator is 9.8%. Among the secondary sources of information its indicator is doubled and reaches 18.6%. Unlike general data, newspapers also were named as the secondary source of information. In Marneuli the primary source of information was named neighbors/friends. In Dmanisi and Tsalka the tertiary source of information was additionally named television (different from main data).

⁴⁰ See the chapter “Accessibility of media and information”

Table №Z1: The main sources of information in Kvemo Kartli region (% in district perspective)

		Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	Total
Source	Colleagues	4.9	1.5	2.9	2.3	1.8	5.4	2.5	3.2
	Family members	4.4	18	21.4	17.9	11.3	8	17.1	13.3
	Neighbors/friends	12.2	25.5	26.3	27	18.2	26.3	24.6	21
	The Internet	13.8	0.7	1.1	1.5	2.9	2.6	2.9	5.5
	Newspapers	17.4	1.5	4.5	7.5	14.6	5.2	7.7	9.4
	Radio	4.6	0.4	2.7	6.5	6.9	1.7	1.8	3.2
	Television	42.8	52.5	41.1	37.3	44.3	50.8	43.5	44.4

As for the language in which the respondents get information: the respondents noted in which language they mainly and/or additionally receive information from TV, radio or read newspapers... In this case, the main source of information is television as well. There is a small number of respondents who listen to the radio or read the press (in the case of getting information in the main and a second language, the share of respondents who do not listen to the radio or read newspapers varies between 61 -69%).

The main languages in which the respondents get information are dominant languages (see Table N Z2) in Kvemo Kartli: Georgian (main language – television 56%, radio 14.3%, press 25.3%) and Azeri (main language – television 27%). As a second language, the dominant one is Russian (television -14.1%, radio 5.5%, press 5.3%). Only in the case of television a relatively high indicator has Georgian language as a second language (10%). In district, some logical differences have been revealed: in districts that are compactly populated by ethnic Azeris or Armenians, the advantage is given to their native language. According to ethnicity, no differences have been revealed apart from the fact that the representatives of any given ethnic group prefer to get information in their native language.

Table №Z2: The main and a second language in which respondents get information (%)

	Main language			A second language		
	Television	Radio	Press	Television	Radio	Press
In Georgian	56.5	14.3	25.3	10.0	0.9	0.9
In Azeri	27.9	1.5	1.4	1.7	0.2	0.2
In Armenian	3.0	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0
In Turkish	2.4	0.0	0.1	5.3	0.4	0.3
In Russian	5.3	0.8	0.5	24.1	5.5	5.3
In English	0.1	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.5	0.8
In German	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5
In other languages	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
I do not watch/listen /read	4.2	69.8	61.0	44.0	66.2	67.8
Refused to answer	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.7
Difficult to answer	0.5	13.0	10.7	10.9	25.3	23.4

Which particular media sources does Kvemo Kartli population use?

Television. On general assessment, the rating of TV channels looks as follows (see Table N Z3): TV companies “Imedi” and “Rustavi 2” have the most viewers. Twice as fewer viewers has “The First Channel”. “Other” TV channels have quite a high indicator (26%). Azeri channel „AzTV“ has also been distinguished (10.8%). According to districts the following differences have been observed: Along with “Imedi” and “Rustavi 2” the most viewers in Rustavi have “The First Channel” “Kavkasia” and “other” channels. In Marneuli, together with the mentioned channels (besides “Kavkasia”), mostly watched channels are “Marneuli TV” and “AzTV”, in Bolnisi - “AzTV”. In Tsalka next to “Imedi”, “Rustavi 2” and “The First Channel” is “Ajara TV”. There is a difference between town and village inhabitants: in towns “Kavkasia” has more viewers from the above listed channels, while in villages – mostly watched channel is “AzTV”.

Table №Z3: Which TV channels do you watch? (% for districts, town/village and region)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	Town	Village	Total
Ajara TV	5.4	0.9	4.3	3.0	14.2	38.8	3.2	4.9	7.0	6.2
Imedi	74.3	21.9	69.6	43.7	81.8	64.8	50.8	70.0	47.8	56.5
Kavkasia	21.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	4.7	0.5	6.2	16.6	1.8	7.6
The First Channel	31.1	6.7	33.6	21.3	43.5	46.6	25.6	31.4	23.2	26.4
The Second Channel	6.3	0.0	1.1	1.4	3.7	0.5	2.0	5.2	1.0	2.7
Maestro	7.4	0.4	4.1	3.8	12.5	23.6	3.9	6.6	5.3	5.8
Real TV	2.2	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.0	1.6	1.9	0.7	1.2
Rustavi 2	80.4	20.8	66.9	38.4	82.8	60.5	58.6	74.8	47.9	58.4
The 5 th Channel	0.7	0.0	23.3	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3	5.3	3.7
Kvemo Kartli tele-radio company The IV Channel	8.5	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.2	6.3	0.1	2.5
Dusheti	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2
Marneuli TV	0.2	24.4	0.2	8.5	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	9.5	6.0
Broadcasting company “Bolnisi”	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.4
Az TV	0.7	21.9	22.3	2.4	0.2	0.0	14.1	2.2	16.4	10.8
ATV	0.9	0.2	4.8	3.4	0.0	0.0	5.1	0.7	2.9	2.1
Other channel	20.0	29.5	35.8	38.7	14.0	37.0	19.8	22.7	28.1	26.0
I do not watch TV	4.8	18.1	2.5	9.2	7.2	9.3	4.1	4.8	9.9	7.9

Magazines and newspapers. A distinct majority of respondents does not read papers (74%) (See Table N Z4). Compared to other magazines and newspapers, “Kviris Palitra” (12.4%), “Sarke” (8.1%) and “Tbiliselebi” (7.1%) have the highest rating. According to districts, the following differences have been observed: “Kviris Palitra” is the leader in Rustavi (25.9%); “Asaval-Dasavali” together with “Sarke” and “Tbiliselebi” has a relatively higher share (10.9%). In Marneuli, Tsalka and Bolnisi people do not usually read the press (95.4 – Marneuli, 86.8% - Tsalka and 84.7% - Bolnisi). “Kviris Palitra”, “Sarke” and “Tbiliselebi” have a relatively high indicator among other magazines and newspapers in Tetritskharo,

Gardabani and Dmanisi. The following differences have been revealed between towns and villages: the respondents who do not read papers have a very high share in villages (village- 85.7%, town -55.7%). Consequently, the three magazines and newspapers with the highest rating have more readers in towns than in villages. Besides, “Kviris Palitra” has the leading position in the town (22.7%).

Table №Z4: Which magazines and newspapers do you read? (% indicators according to districts, town/village and regions)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	Town	Village	Total
Alia	2.6	0.0	3.0	0.8	5.8	0.2	1.3	2.9	1.2	1.9
Akhali Versia	0.2	0.2	1.4	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4
Akhali Taoba	2.4	0.0	2.1	0.7	3.0	0.0	1.2	2.0	1.1	1.4
Asaval-dasavali	10.9	0.4	2.1	2.9	9.7	0.2	5.2	8.9	2.8	5.2
Kviris palitra	25.9	1.7	6.2	13.8	14.0	2.7	10.7	22.7	5.7	12.4
24 saati	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.5	1.5	0.7	1.1	2.1	0.6	1.2
Prime time	2.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.5	1.5	0.3	0.8
Resonanse	2.2	0.2	1.4	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.7	2.2	0.3	1.1
Georgian Times	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0
Sarke	13.0	0.9	5.8	13.0	13.5	2.6	9.3	12.5	5.4	8.1
Tbiliselebi	12.0	0.7	4.4	9.3	11.0	2.9	8.8	11.4	4.4	7.1
Liberali	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2
“Tsalkis utskhebani”	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	3.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Rustavis ambebi	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Newspaper “Rustavi”	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.3
Magazine “Rustavelebi”	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Other newspaper/magazine	12.8	2.4	1.4	3.4	3.2	7.3	8.5	10.7	4.0	6.6
I do not read the press	52.0	95.4	84.7	74.2	66.3	86.8	73.0	55.7	85.7	74.0

Radio. Most of the respondents (88.6%) do not listen to the radio (see Table N Z5). Radio channels “Radio Imedi” and “Ar Daidardo” has the most listeners (among the radio listeners). No significant differences have been revealed according to districts with the exception of Marneuli, Bolnisi and Tsalka where the share of respondents who do not listen to the radio is very high (the indicator varies between 91-98%), while in Rustavi “Radio Tavisupleba”, “Fortuna” and “Sapatriarkos Radio” have relatively higher number of listeners (indicators vary between 2-4%).

Table №25: Which radio station do you listen to? (% indicators - according to districts, town/village and regions)

Radio stations	Mcvane Talgha	Palitra	Radio Tavisufleba	Radio Imedi	Radio I Arkhi	Fortuna	Fortuna +	Sapatrarkos Radio	Saqartvelos Khma	Radio Ucnobi	Natsionali	Ar Daidardo	other	I do not listen to the
Total	0.7	0.2	0.9	4.2	0.6	1.6	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.1	2.7	0.9	88.6

Trust towards the means of information and the assessment of media activities

Trust towards mass media is an important means of measuring, according to which it is possible to get certain information: about the level of democracy, efficiency of mass media, its rating, public attitudes and expectations, etc. In general, a high indicator of low trust towards mass media has been observed in Kvemo Kartli (more than half of the respondents express their distrust towards the press and radio, and one-fifth to television). The trust towards any given media and news programs they contain is directly proportional to their ratings: the most popular source of information and means they contain have a relatively high index of trust. The trust index decreases along with the decrease in the number of users of this or that media source (press and radio, in terms of their usage, considerably lags behind television and consequently, more respondents develop low trust in them).

Assessment of mass media activities in a certain way correlates with its trust and awareness indices. Despite the fact that a positive trend can be observed in the assessment of mass media activities, we should not forget that every second respondent found it difficult to assess media activities. Such attitude can be due to different factors, namely: 1) if we take into consideration the high level of distrust towards media means, we can imply that the attitudes of the respondents belonging to the above mentioned group (whose response was “Difficult to answer” -48.1%) tend to be more negative, although they have no clearly expressed position; 2) We can speak about the indifference of a part of respondents (for instance, ethnic Azeris that found it more difficult to answer than others are the least involved in social activities/ reveal less desire to participate in different activities). 3) Lack of information – if we consider the data of the survey where it shows that Kvemo Kartli population uses mostly television as a source of information, while non-Georgian respondents prefer the means of information of neighboring countries, then it becomes evident why they have difficulties in assessment.

Trust towards televisions. Kvemo Kartli populations mostly trust “Imedi” and “Rustavi 2”, i.e. mostly those TV stations that are available for the majority of Kvemo Kartli population (in terms of coverage) (for detailed information, see Table N Z6). Almost one-fifth of respondents – 18.7% have no trust in any of the TV stations and 27.6% finds it difficult to answer. Besides, 4.9% named “Marneuli TV” and 8.8% - other TV channels. Among districts, the following differences have been revealed – in Marneuli the most trustworthy TV channel is “Marneuli TV” (20.3%). In Dmanisi “other” TV channels get the highest percentage (36.2%). The most trustworthy TV channel in Dmanisi was named to be “Rustavi 2”.

Table №Z6: Which source of information do you trust? (% according to district and regional perspective)

	Rustavi	Marneuli	Bolnisi	Dmanisi	Tetritskharo	Tsalka	Gardabani	Total
Ajara Television	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.3
Imedi	10.7	7.8	22.0	21.5	26.5	21.1	7.8	13.5
Kavkasia	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	3.3	2.2
Pirveli Arkhi	2.0	0.2	1.1	1.4	5.0	5.0	1.8	1.8
Meore Arkhi	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Maestro	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.7	5.0	5.0	1.6	1.2
Real TV	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rustavi 2	22.2	10.6	17.2	8.0	27.5	17.8	14.5	16.9
V Arkhi	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
IV Arkhi	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Dusheti	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MarneuliTV	0.0	20.3	0.0	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9
Az TV	0.0	3.9	4.6	1.9	0.0	0.0	4.9	2.5
ATV	0.0	0.2	2.7	2.2	0.0	0.3	3.2	1.2
Other Channels	4.6	1.7	13.2	36.2	0.5	25.6	9.7	8.8
None of them	32.2	6.5	16.8	15.0	14.8	8.3	19.7	18.7
Difficult to answer	20.9	48.6	20.5	4.3	19.5	16.1	33.2	27.6

Trust towards magazines and newspapers. Due to the fact that the printed media in Kvemo Kartli does not have many readers, we came up with the following results: 55.6% of the respondents do not trust any of the magazines or newspapers (see Table N Z7), 30.7% found it difficult to answer. Among the listed magazines and newspapers, the trust is relatively high towards “Kviris Palitra” (5.2%). The rest of the magazines and newspapers have a very low share. According to districts, the indicators are not much different from the general picture. However, not a single magazine or newspaper was named in Marneuli and the share of respondents who do not trust any of them, is the highest (89%). All printed media has the minimal indicators in Bolnisi, Tsalka and Gardabani.

Table №Z7: Which magazines and newspapers do you trust? (% indicators)

	Alia	Akhali Versia	Akhali Taoba	Asaval-dasavali	Kviris Palitra	24 Saati	Prime-time	Resonanse	Georgian Times	Sarke	Tbiliselebi	“Tsalkis Utskhebiani”	Newspaper “Rustavi”	Magazine “Rustavelebi”	Other	None of them	Difficult to answer
Total	1.5	0.1	0.2	1.7	5.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0	1.2	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.8	55.6	30.7

Trust towards radio stations. As the survey has shown, the number of radio listeners is even smaller than the readers of the printed media. Consequently, the share of respondents who do not trust either of the radio stations (59.2%) and of those who find it difficult to answer (33.8%) is high (see Table N Z8). All radio stations are trusted by a minimum number of respondents. “Radio Imedi” has a slightly higher indicator (2.5%)

Table №Z8: Which radio station do you trust? (% indicators)

Radio	Mtsvane Talgha	Palitra	Radio Tavissuffeba	Radio Imedi	Radio I Arkhi	Fortuna	Fortuna +	Sapatrarkos Radio	Saqartvelos khma	Radio Utsnobi	Ar daidardo	other	None of them	Difficult to answer
Total	1.8	0	0.4	2.5	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.4	59.2	33.8

Evaluation of mass media activities. As the research has shown, the main part of respondents (48.1%) had difficulties in the evaluation of mass media activities (see table N Z 9), which on the one hand indicates the respondents' negative attitude in general, and on the other, their indifference and lack of information. The share of those who gave positive evaluation is 28.4% (difference between explicitly positive and rather positive assessments is 4%) and by far exceeds the indicator of negative assessments (6.9%). As for neutral assessment, its share is (16.7%). The following differences have been revealed in district and town/village: in Bolnisi and Tetrtskharno the share of neutral assessments is the highest (about 21-38%), while the share of explicitly negative assessments prevail in towns (town -11%, village -1.2%). Most difficult for the respondents to give assessment in Marneuli, Tetrtskharno and Gardabani (the indicators vary between 61-64%), while least difficult to assess was in Dmanisi and consequently in this district the share of explicitly positive assessment is 63.7%. In ethnic section, both negative and neutral assessment prevails among Georgians. Respondents of all ethnic groups found it difficult to answer (similar to general trend), although, Azeri population can be distinguished in this regard.

Table №Z9: How would you assess the activities of mass media (% indicators for ethnic groups and the whole region)

	Nationality				Total
	Georgian	Azeri	Armenian	Other	
Negatively	8.1	1.6	0.9	11.3	5.4
negatively than positively	2.3	0.4	0.6	0.0	1.5
Neither negatively, nor positively	20.3	13.1	7.3	8.8	16.7
Rather positively than negatively	12.9	9.5	23.1	15.0	12.3
positively	15.2	17.0	19.8	11.5	16.1
Difficult to answer	41.3	58.4	48.3	53.4	48.1

If compared to the assessment of other organizations, it can be said that along with the 9 different organizations listed above, mass media falls under the positive field of the scale (index – 3.62), although it occupies the fifth place after religious and government organizations/ (*see Graph №56*).



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