



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA



LEPL ENVIRONMENTAL  
INFORMATION AND  
EDUCATION CENTRE

EIEC

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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## ON THE LEPL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE

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The Environmental Information and Education Centre (EIEC) is a significant state agency responsible for disseminating environmental and agricultural information, as well as promoting education. The Centre is responsible for implementing the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) across the country and thus conducts its activities in the following directions:

- 🌿 Public involvement in the decision-making process
- 🌿 Ensuring access to environmental and agricultural information
- 🌿 Promoting environmental and agricultural education and raising awareness among the public

The Environmental Information and Education Centre's main activities to accomplish these goals are:

- 🌿 Promotion of environmental and agricultural education in preschool, school, higher, and adult education
- 🌿 Thematic lectures/seminars for school children
- 🌿 Thematic contests
- 🌿 Training sessions in environmental and agricultural fields
- 🌿 Implementation of professional training/retraining programs
- 🌿 Information meetings
- 🌿 Organize public hearings and discussions
- 🌿 Dissemination of various types of information through various communication channels (e-mail, website, social networks, print/radio/television media)

The EIEC carries out its activities following the **Sustainable Development goals**. Respectively, the Centre's contribution is significantly related to Sustainable Development Goal 4, as it concerns high-quality education. To ensure lifelong and high-quality education, the Centre implements programs focused on environmental and agricultural education in preschools, primary and secondary education institutions, and vocational or higher education institutions.

The role of the Centre is significant in developing and disseminating various types of educational and informational materials on environmental and agricultural topics, conducting awareness-raising meetings and

trainings, promoting the improvement of environmental legislation, and ensuring public participation in the environmental decision-making process, thereby directly or indirectly contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16.

The integration and implementation of gender equality issues in all aspects of its daily activities, remains a constant priority for EIEC. All interested members of society have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities. Additionally, gender-related issues are reflected in the educational and informational materials developed by the EIEC, such as publications, video clips, posters, etc.

The Centre conducts its activities according to the “Statute of the Public Law Legal Entity - Environmental Information and Education Centre”. In addition, the Centre functions by Georgian law, the Environmental Information and Education Centre’s internal regulations, and the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).

In its activities, the Centre shares the visions and directions of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Regional Commission for Europe (UNECE) “Education for Sustainable Development Strategy”, the Georgian Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2021-2027, the Fourth National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP IV) of Georgia 2022-2026, and the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union.

The report outlines the activities carried out by the LEPL Environmental Information and Education Centre in 2024, focusing on promoting environmental and agricultural education, disseminating environmental information, and ensuring public involvement in the decision-making process.



# EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION (PRESCHOOL, SCHOOL, VOCATIONAL, HIGHER EDUCATION)

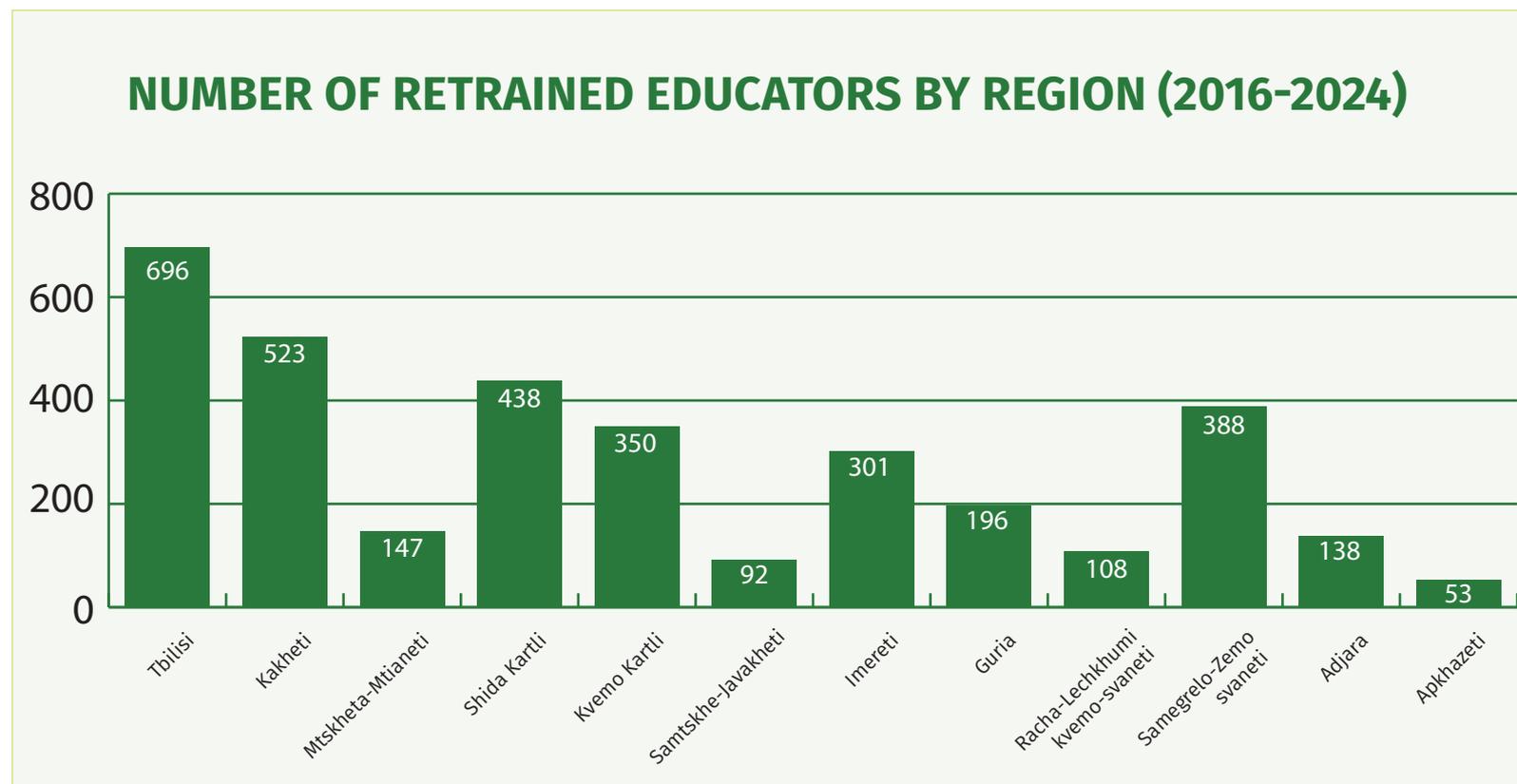
### PRESCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The EIEC has been conducting the retraining of preschool educators and methodologists since 2016. The training course unites all environmental topics that are essential to teach children in their early age to raise their environmental awareness. The program includes the following topics:

- ♣ Biodiversity around us
- ♣ Saving water and energy
- ♣ Waste management
- ♣ Climate change



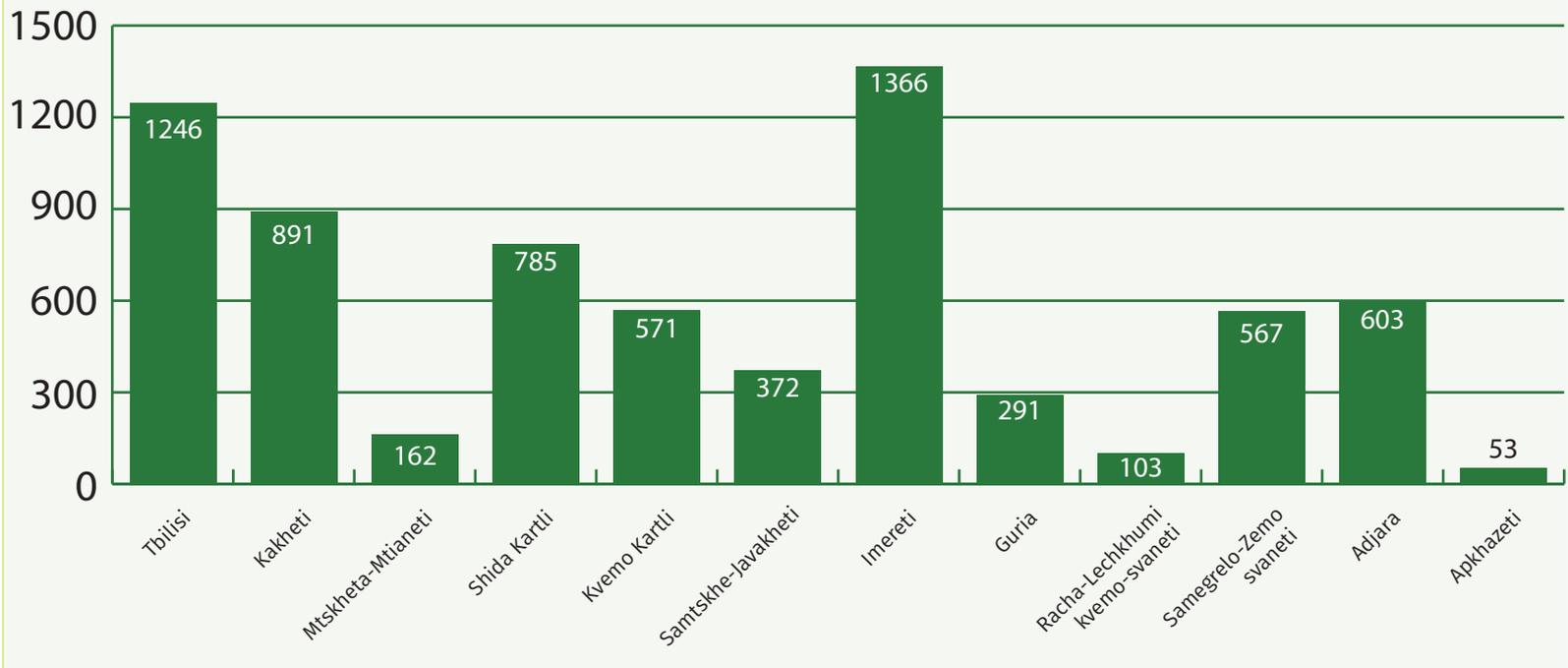
The program was implemented in 2024 in the Kakheti and Shida Kartli regions. Within the program 519 (519 women and 0 men) teachers and educators were retrained, also the textbooks and eco packages were handed over to all of them to use in the process of teaching the environmental topics. Within the program, a total of 3430 preschool teachers-educators were retrained since 2016. The implementation of the renewed program is continuing throughout the country.



## ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AT SCHOOL

In order to promote environmental and agricultural education in the general education space, the Centre has been implementing a retraining program - “environmental and agricultural education at school” for primary school teachers for four years. Within the training-course, teachers have an opportunity to integrate significant environmental and agricultural topics into the learning process. In 2024, **1,032** teachers (947 female and 85 male), along with a total of **7,010** teachers (6,762 female and 248 male) from across the country, were successfully retrained based on four years of data. They were awarded certificates and received supporting textbooks to more effectively integrate environmental and agricultural topics into the educational process.

### NUMBER OF RETRAINED TEACHERS BY THE REGION (2021-2024)



The continuation of the policy of promoting environmental and agricultural education initiated by the Centre is the development of the “**Environmental and Agricultural Education at School**” program for primary and secondary levels. During 2023-2024, the content of the program was prepared, and educational materials were developed that covered important topics for both categories:

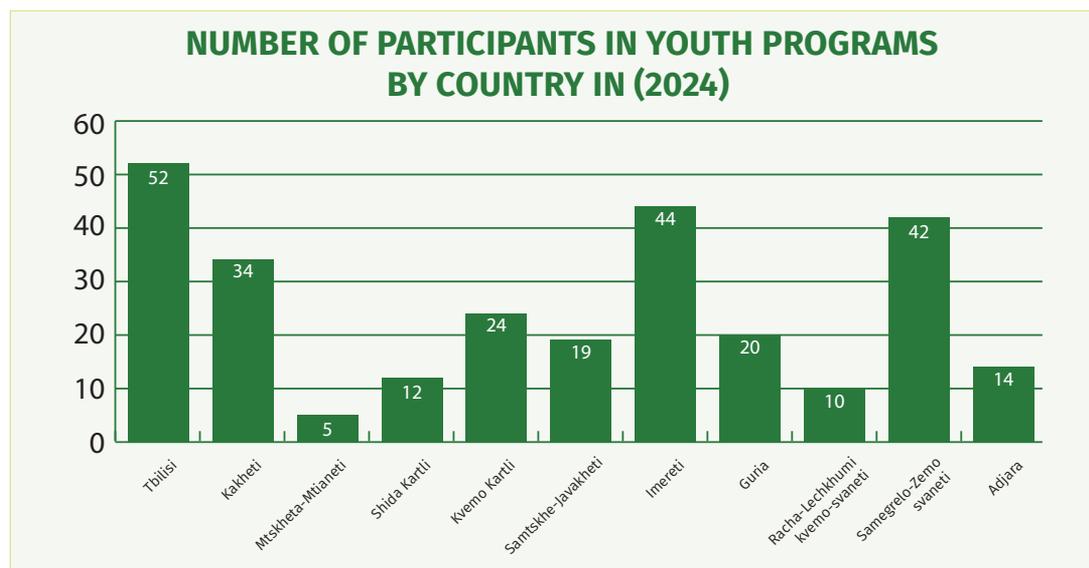
- 🌿 Climate change
- 🌿 Traditional and alternative energy resources
- 🌿 The path to sustainability: circular economy
- 🌿 The sustainable development of the cities
- 🌿 The sustainable production and use
- 🌿 The world ocean and its related problems
- 🌿 Waste management
- 🌿 Preserving biodiversity
- 🌿 The management of water resources
- 🌿 Food safety
- 🌿 The challenges and achievements of agriculture
- 🌿 Aquaculture and Fisheries
- 🌿 Animal Health and Welfare
- 🌿 Plant Protection
- 🌿 Horticulture
- 🌿 Agronomy
- 🌿 Climate-Smart Agriculture
- 🌿 Organic Farming and Farm Management

Following the program's completion, training for basic and secondary school teachers in general education institutions is scheduled.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

To promote environmental and agricultural professions, the following educational programs have been implemented for youth in 2024: "Ecoleaders school," "Forestry school," "Agroschool" , "The green camp-climate ambassadors," "The network of young volunteers".

276 students (178 girls and 98 boys) between grades 9-12 took part in cognitive environmental and agricultural youth programs.



## ECOLEADER SCHOOL



One of the important projects of the Environmental Information and Education Centre is the 'Ecoleader School,' which seeks to engage young people in environmental issues, enhance environmental awareness in society, and cultivate environmental values. The learning program allows the participants to receive information regarding several current and interesting environmental topics and to be aware of the opinions of professional speakers. The above-mentioned course was completed by **56 students** successfully (37 female and 19 male).

## AGROSCHOOL

The learning course enables students interested in agricultural topics to acquire more knowledge and information about various topics within the fields of agriculture and the environment, as well as to participate in agricultural activities. **85 students (46 female and 39 male) completed the "Agroschool" training course.** The 2-month program was delivered in two streams. Agroschool is conducted monthly and aims to promote agricultural knowledge, deficient vocations, and to raise awareness about vocational education among graduating students.

*The program is currently being implemented as part of the project "Modernization of Vocational Education and Training (VET) Systems in Agriculture in Georgia (Phase 3)."*



## FORESTRY SCHOOL

The goal of the training course “**Forestry School**” is to provide young people interested in forest-related issues with in-depth knowledge, taking into account both theoretical and practical aspects, on current and interesting topics. The Forestry School was completed by **44 students** (32 female; 12 male). The theoretical part of the program includes 2-month online training, and the practical part includes 3-day field trips, within the framework of which specialists in the field introduce students to the inventory work carried out in the forest.

*The program is implemented within the project “**Support to Forestry Sector Reform in Georgia—ECO.Georgia.**”*



## GREEN CAMP CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

The program provides young people with the opportunity to raise awareness on environmental topics and implement projects at the local level. For 7 days, participants worked with field experts on environmental issues of interest to them, including climate change, forest resource management, biodiversity, and community-based disaster risk reduction. The goal of the camp is to promote the involvement of young people in environmental activities and raise their awareness on climate change-related disaster risk reduction, as well as to promote



environmental professions among students. Green Camp participants were selected through a contest from across the country, with an average age of 15-17 years. During the year, 51 students (36 female and 15 male) received the status of Climate Ambassador, and from 2022 to 2024, a total of 159 Climate Ambassadors took part in the Green Camp.

*The program is implemented within the project **"Climate Change Disaster Risk Reduction in Georgia."***

### **YOUNG VOLUNTEERS**

The volunteers network brings together young people aged 15-17 and encourages their active involvement in educational activities at the local level. Within the program, students studied online for two months such environmental issues as sustainable development goals, climate change disaster risk reduction, forest resource management, renewable and alternative energies, biodiversity, water resource management, waste management, ecosystem services, and communication and presentation skills. The youth program was completed by 30 volunteers (20 female and 10 male) in 2024 and a total of 103 volunteers in 2022-2024.

*The program is implemented within **the projects "Climate Change Disaster Risk Reduction in Georgia" and "Support to Forestry Sector Reform in Georgia - ECO.Georgia."***

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING/RETRAINING PROGRAMS

The Environmental Information and Education Centre obtained the right to implement vocational training/retraining programs in 2022, after which the process of implementing the program was actively underway. A total of 84 trainees (45 male and 39 female) completed the vocational training/retraining programs provided by the centre.

### FOREST INVENTORY AND TAXATION

The professional training program "**Forest Inventory and Taxation,**" was implemented with the support of the National Forestry Agency, the Vocational Skills Agency, and the United Nations Development Programme (within the "ENPARD-4: Supporting Rural Development in Georgia" project).

The Forest Inventory and Taxation Professional Training Program involved persons with a bachelor's degree in forestry and related fields. The trainees strengthened their basic knowledge of forests and improved the knowledge and skills necessary for conducting forest inventory and taxation in the field. In 2024, 15 persons (14 male and 1 female) were trained within the course and were awarded state-recognized certificates.





## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER

The goal of the professional training program “Environmental Manager” is to promote green business, train relevant personnel for companies by legal requirements and modern standards, and improve their qualifications. In 2024, 36 people (22 female and 14 male) were trained. After successful completion of the course, participants were awarded state-recognized certificates.

## PROMOTION OF VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION

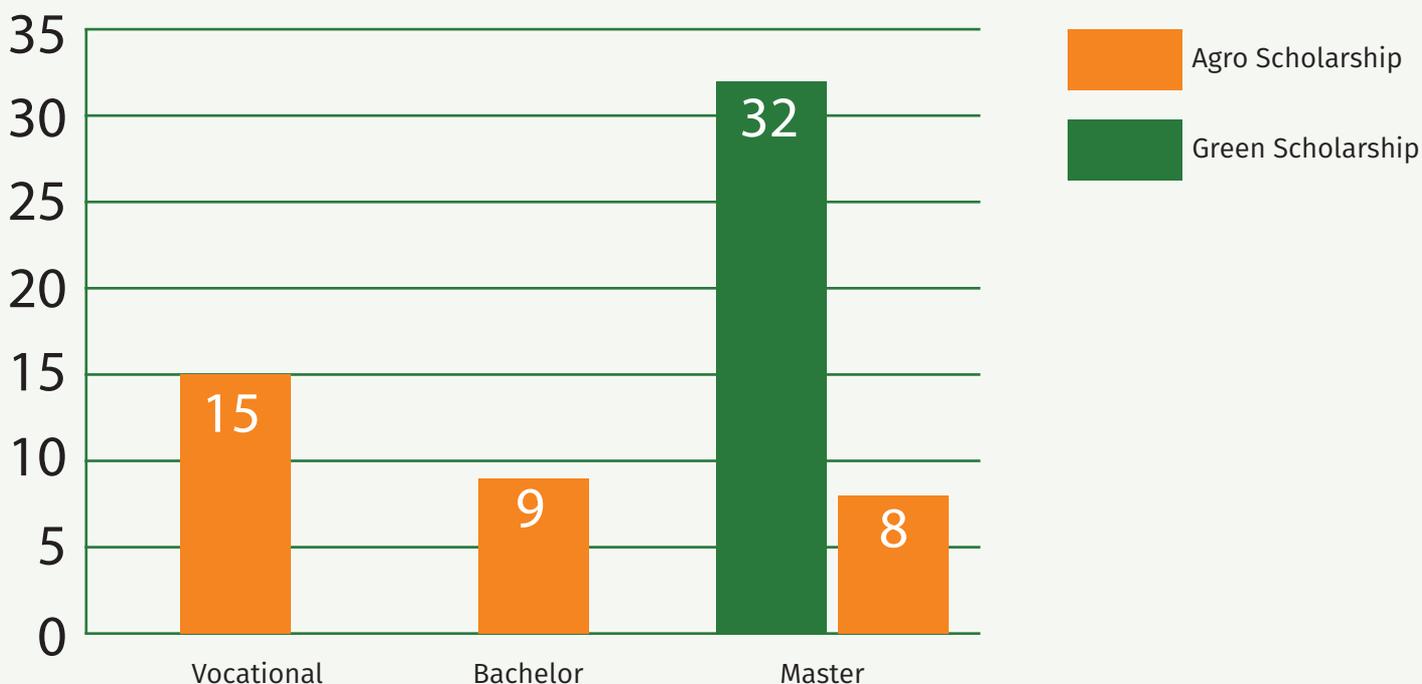
### GREEN AND AGRO SCHOLARSHIPS

The Environmental Information and Education Centre, together with partner organizations, implements a program aimed at promoting environmental and agricultural deficient professions and encouraging high academic performance in this direction **among vocational, bachelor's, and master's degree students. 64 scholarships are awarded annually of 500 to 1500 GEL.** In particular, vocational school students receive a scholarship of **500 GEL**, bachelor's students- **1000 GEL**, and master's students - **1500 GEL**.



The Green and Agro-Scholarship Program has 32 Green and 32 Agro-Scholarships holders annually.

## THE NUMBER OF GREEN AND AGRO SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS (2024)



### GREEN SCHOLARSHIPS

To promote environmental professions, the “Green Scholarships” program was introduced in higher education institutions in 2022. In 2024, 32 excellent master's students (21 female, 11 male) were awarded 1,500 GEL scholarships. A total of 96 master's students were awarded in 2022-2024.

#### The scholarships apply to the following master's programs

- 🌱 Physical geography and sustainable environmental development
- 🌱 Integrated Water Resources Management (Hydrology)
- 🌱 Geology

- 🌿 Energy and Mineral Resources Management and Sustainable Development
- 🌿 Environmental Protection and Engineering Ecology;
- 🌿 Ecology
- 🌿 Constructional (Applied) Geography and Environmental Protection
- 🌿 Environmental Management and Policy

**Scholarships were awarded to students from the following higher education institutions:**

- 🌿 Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
- 🌿 Ilia State University
- 🌿 Georgian Technical University
- 🌿 Georgian Institute of Public Affairs
- 🌿 Akaki Tsereteli State University
- 🌿 Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University
- 🌿 Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University
- 🌿 Sokhumi State University

*The program is implemented within the project "**Expansion of Multi-hazard Early Warning System and the Use of the Climate Related Information in Georgia** "*



## **AGRO SCHOLARSHIPS**

To support deficient agricultural vocations, **in 2024, 32 excellent students (17 female, 15 male) from 12 vocational schools and 6 universities were awarded scholarships of 500, 1000, and 1500 GEL within the Agricultural Scholarships program**

### **Agricultural vocational educational programs:**

- 🌿 Viticulture-Enology (dual)
- 🌿 Fruit Growing (dual)
- 🌿 Fruit Growing (modular)
- 🌿 Fruit Growing-Tea Growing (modular)
- 🌿 Gardening (modular)
- 🌿 Horticulture (modular)
- 🌿 Forestry (modular)
- 🌿 Laboratory Work in Fisheries (modular)
- 🌿 Farming in Fisheries (modular)
- 🌿 Beekeeping (modular)
- 🌿 Veterinary Medicine (modular)
- 🌿 Fifth-level Vocational Program in Veterinary Medicine (modular)

### **Agricultural Bachelor's Degree Programs:**

- 🌿 Agricultural technologies
- 🌿 Agronomy
- 🌿 Agronomy (plant protection)
- 🌿 Agronomy (agroecology)
- 🌿 Food technology

## Agricultural Master's Degree Programs:

- 🌿 Veterinary (integrated)
- 🌿 Viticulture-Enology
- 🌿 Agricultural Technology

The program is implemented within the **project Modernization of Vocational Education and Training (VET) Systems in Agriculture of Georgia (Phase 3)**.



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PROMOTE HIGHER EDUCATION

To encourage exchange programs in environmental sustainability, forest management, agricultural practices, and food sciences, **the Bern University of Applied Sciences** (School of Agriculture, Forestry, and Food Sciences), the Environmental Information and Education Centre, and the Vocational Skills Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding.



## EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

### THE GREEN AWARD

The most significant award in the environmental field is the “Green Award” contest, which seeks to recognize and support kindergarten teachers and practitioners who actively incorporate the textbooks **"Preschool Environmental Education"** and **"Environmental and Agricultural Education at School"** into their teaching process and who are concerned about advancing the environmental and agricultural education of young students.

The “green award” winners are:

“Preschool Environmental Education 2024” – Nino Barbakadze-Kakhniashvili, educator and teacher at Tbilisi Kindergarten No. 126;

“Environmental and Agricultural Education at School 2024” – Nino Kachkachashvili, biology and natural science teacher in the villages of Arali and Varkhani, Adigeni Municipality.



**The Environmental Information and Education Centre held the following contests as part of the "Reducing the risk of climate-driven disasters in Georgia" project, which is supported by the UNDP and funded by the Georgian government, the Green Climate Fund, the governments of Sweden and Switzerland.**

### **CONTEST "CREATE A SAFE COMMUNITY"**

To strengthen community resilience through the maximum involvement of stakeholders and to promote and increase knowledge and awareness about the reduction of climate-driven disasters at the local level, community organizations are invited to take part in the **"Create a Safe Community"** contest. One of the seven natural hazards (flood, hail, mudslide, landslide, drought, strong wind, avalanche) that presented difficulties for the community and the municipality had to be the subject of the proposal that was submitted. The contest's winners received USD 4,000.

The winners of contests **"create a safe community"**

- 🌿 **Lagodekhi Municipality Community Union "Vardisubani"**
- 🌿 **Senaki Municipality Public Enterprise "DEA"**



## CONTEST “LEARN IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT”

The Environmental Information and Education Centre organized a grant contest for general education institutions: "Learn in a Safe Environment." The goal of the contest was to promote the reduction of the risk of climate-driven disasters and the impact of natural hazards caused by climate change at the local level, raise knowledge and awareness about disasters caused by natural hazards, and strengthen community resilience through the maximum involvement of stakeholders.

The winners of the “**Learn in a safe environment**” contest:

- 🌱 **1st place** - Vardisubani Village Public School, Lagodekhi Municipality - \$1200
- 🌱 **2nd place** - N153 Public School, Tbilisi - \$800



Since each of the top ten schools' projects were outstanding and very interesting, the Environmental Information and Education Centre and the United Nations Development Programme have decided that all eight schools will be awarded 600 US dollars as a reward for their project implementations.

Awarded schools:

- 🌿 Ivandidi Village Public School, Khoni Municipality
- 🌿 Pirveli Maisi village public school, Khobi municipality
- 🌿 Gaghma Sajijao village public school, Khobi municipality
- 🌿 Chkhorotsku public school N1
- 🌿 Kokhnari village public school, Chokhatauri municipality
- 🌿 Lagodekhi Public School N1
- 🌿 Tbilisi Public School N18
- 🌿 Dedoplistskaro public school N2

### **THE CONTEST „CREATE A CLIMATE-FRIENDLY GARDEN”**

The goal of the contest,"Create a Climate-Friendly Garden" is to increase awareness among preschool education institutions regarding environmental issues.

The winners of the contest **“Create a Climate-Friendly Garden”** are as follows:

- 🌿 **1st place** - Kindergarten of the village of Kutiri, Khoni Municipality - **700 GEL voucher**
- 🌿 **2nd place** - Kindergarten No. 1, Khoni Municipality - **500 GEL voucher**
- 🌿 **3rd place** - Kindergarten of the Oni Municipality - **500 GEL voucher**

**By the decision of the commission, vouchers were awarded to three additional kindergartens for their outstanding projects:**

- 🌱 Khobi Municipality Kindergarten No. 2
- 🌱 Bugeuli Village Kindergarten, Ambrolauri Municipality
- 🌱 Tbilisi Kindergarten No. 19



## TRAININGS FOR THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

A total of **7,025 participants** (4,373 women and 2,652 men) were trained in environmental and agricultural training held in 2024.

### ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING

**A total of 6,449 participants** (4,143 women and 2,306 men) **completed training and educational programs on various environmental issues:** preschool environmental education; environmental and agricultural education at school; climate change disaster risk reduction; environmental liability systems; environmental democracy - human rights and duties for representatives of municipalities; rules of conduct for individuals servicing heat pumps, refrigeration, and air conditioning systems; rules of conduct for persons with disabilities in emergencies; climate change as a disaster risk management and the use of hazard mapping; and community-based disaster risk management and the use of hazard mapping. “Climate Change-Induced Disaster Risk Management and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (DRR/DRM) „Rules of Conduct during Climate Change-Induced Disasters and the Importance of Emergency Management Plans” for Schools and Preschools.



In 2024, lectures and seminars on environmental and agricultural topics were regularly held for school children throughout the year. The lectures/seminars were attended by **2,857 (1,667 female; 1,190 male) students and teachers from various schools.**

## AGRICULTURAL TRAININGS



**In 2024, a total of 576 participants (346 men; 230 women) underwent training in the agricultural direction on the following topics:** “Food Safety” (ToT) for teachers, „ Agricultural extension and Rural Development” for extensionists, „ Agricultural Value Chain” for media representatives, „ Fundamentals of Agricultural Cooperatives management” (legal regulation, institutions and internal industrial relations), existing and ongoing programs in agriculture for students, „ Agrotechnology of Potato Production with Support for Income Growth and Sharing of New Technologies” for ethnic minorities, “Financial management of Agribusiness” for farmers, extensionists and teachers of vocational colleges, “Care and

Cultivation of Root, Garden Crops and Decorative Flowers ” for prisoners, „ Crop Post-harvest technologies and cold storage management”, „Agrotechnology of laurel production”, “Cultivation and management of windbreaks”, Demo farm setup methodology for farmers and extensionists.

## STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF THE EMPLOYEES

Employees of public law legal entities and sub-agencies operating under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, as well as the central apparatus, are supported on their retraining and capacity building by the EIEC. Accordingly, based on the findings of a study on employee training requirements, the Centre annually arranges training courses to enhance the skills and credentials of staff members of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

**A total of 511 individuals (315 men and 196 women) took part in training programs conducted in 2024** to raise the credentials of workers at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and its agencies. Employees' skills were enhanced in the following areas: public speaking, preventing sexual harassment and exploitation, using hydrometeorological and geological hazard and risk maps, etiquette of behavior and communication with people with disabilities, and basic course/training on climate change related to disaster risk (specific hazards and rules of conduct).



## CERTIFICATION

### CERTIFICATION OF REFRIGERANT SYSTEM SERVICE PROVIDERS, INCLUDING PERSONS, SOLE PROPRIETORS, AND LEGAL ORGANISATIONS

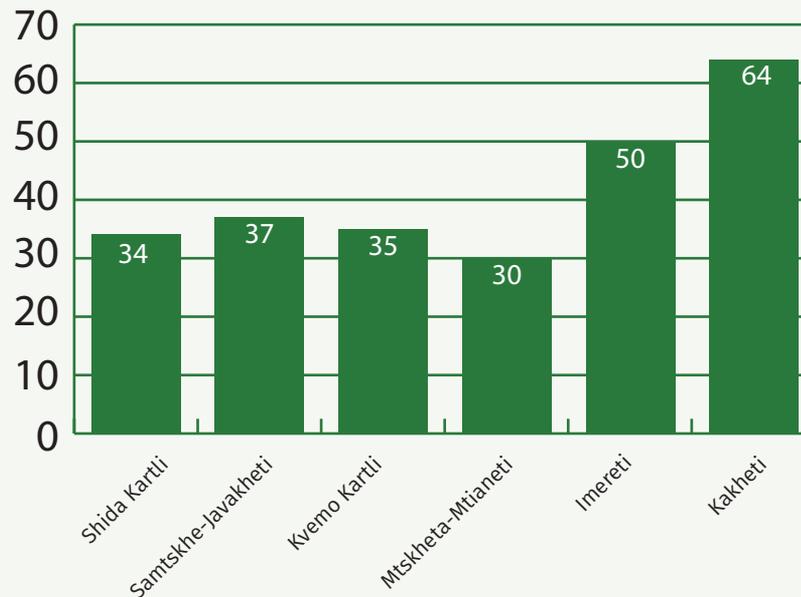
The certification procedure for personnel servicing refrigerant systems has been implemented by the Centre since January 1, 2017. According to the amended regulations, the Centre will offer the certification process for individuals, individual entrepreneurs, and legal companies starting January 1, 2024. In 2024, **327** business owners and legal organizations (certification period: 3 years) and **643** persons who service refrigerant systems (certification period: 5 years) received certification. 144 participants attended trainings on the use of the electronic management system for chemicals governed by the Montreal Protocol for those who service air conditioning, refrigeration, and heat pumps.



## ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY-HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A multinational environmental convention known as the Aarhus Convention provides public involvement in the decision-making process, access to information about environmental concerns, and justice in this field. The Environmental Information and Education Centre organized the first training flow on the subject of "**Environmental Democracy – Human Rights and Responsibilities**" for State Attorney's Office representatives, municipal mayors, and city councils across Georgia in order to make it easier to implement the Convention's obligations. 250 people (164 men and 86 women) attended the trainings, which were conducted in 40 communities throughout six regions of Georgia. The second and last training session is scheduled for 2025.

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN TRAININGS BY REGIONS



# ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

In 2024, **6,576** people were engaged in the environmental and agricultural education and awareness-raising activities, as well as public discussions, information, and workshops conducted by the Centre.

## INFORMATION MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS



**The information/workshops were attended by 3,407 participants, 2,115 of whom were women and 1,292 of whom were males.**

- 🌿 As part of the “Earth Hour”, information meetings were held with students at the European School (39 participants – 21 female, 18 male);
- 🌿 As part of the “Earth Day” celebration, an information meeting was held with students at Public School No. 137 (22 students - 13 girls, 9 boys);
- 🌿 Tbilisi Public School No. 191 children took part in a gathering to honor the International Day of Forests. The youth were informed about Georgia's forests, their types, their role, and their timber and non-timber resources, as well as the value of forests for a healthy environment and human health. Following

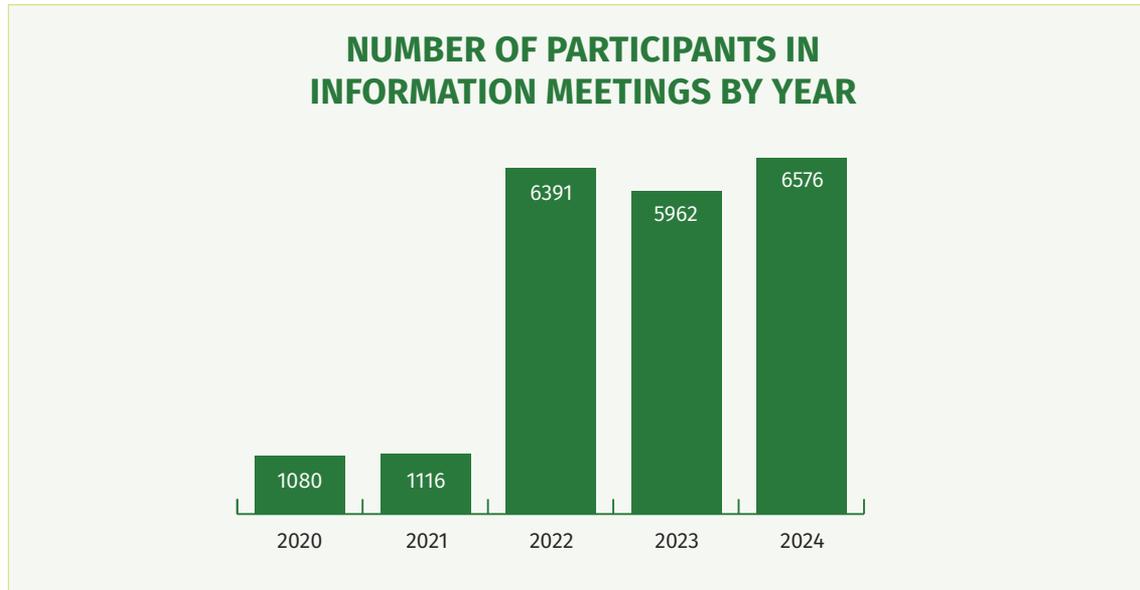
- theoretical instruction, the students (22 students, 13 female and 9 male) learnt about the technical procedures of forest inventory and the methodology used to conduct the nationwide national forest inventory;
- ♣ Informational seminars concerning energy-efficient stoves and innovations in the forest sector were organised in four municipalities of Kakheti (Akhmeta, Telavi, Kvareli, and Dedoplistskaro) with 217 participants (67 women and 150 men);
  - ♣ 46 people (31 women and 15 men) attended a public debate on the proposed Tbilisi Agglomeration Ambient Air Quality Management Plan for 2024–2026;
  - ♣ A total of 22 information sessions on the subject of "Sustainable Forest Management and Georgian Forests" were conducted in the municipalities of Guria and Tianeti, with 460 participants (277 girls and 183 boys);
  - ♣ Discussions on capacities, services, and innovations in the forest industry were undertaken with the society. 4 sessions in total, with 197 participants (56 male and 141 female) in the municipalities of Ozurgeti, Lanchkhuti, Chokhatauri, and Tianeti;
  - ♣ Information meetings were held for schoolchildren at the National Environmental Agency's Laboratory for  
Ambient Air, Water, and Soil Analysis. 70 students (34 girls and 36 boys) were informed about hydrochemical tests of wastewater and surface water, as well as the identification of main ions, biogenic elements, and heavy metals. They also conducted chemical analyses to assess the water's quality;
  - ♣ At a summary meeting for the "Ecoleaders School" learning course, 66 students (44 girls and 22 boys) were given certificates for completing the course;
  - ♣ 85 students, 46 girls and 39 boys, were awarded for successful graduation at a closure meeting of the "Agroschool" learning course;
  - ♣ Field practice was conducted for students of the "Forestry School" training course, created to promote the profession of foresters (44 students – 32 female and 12 male);
  - ♣ Successful graduates of the "Young Climate Volunteers" programme visited institutions within the system of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (19 participants – 11 female, 8 male);

The Environmental Information and Education Centre implemented a number of information campaigns on environmental and agricultural topics throughout 2024. The aforementioned campaigns aim to increase the level of environmental and agricultural education and awareness and promote public involvement in the environmental decision-making process. During this period, 30 information posts were distributed through the Environmental Information and Education Centre's social network to celebrate Environmental and Agricultural Days.



## INFORMATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Through the Centre's social media accounts, information was disseminated on Earth Hour 2024, Forest Day, Clean Air for Blue Skies, Ozone Layer Preservation Day, Energy Efficiency and Alternative Fuels, and World Environment Day.

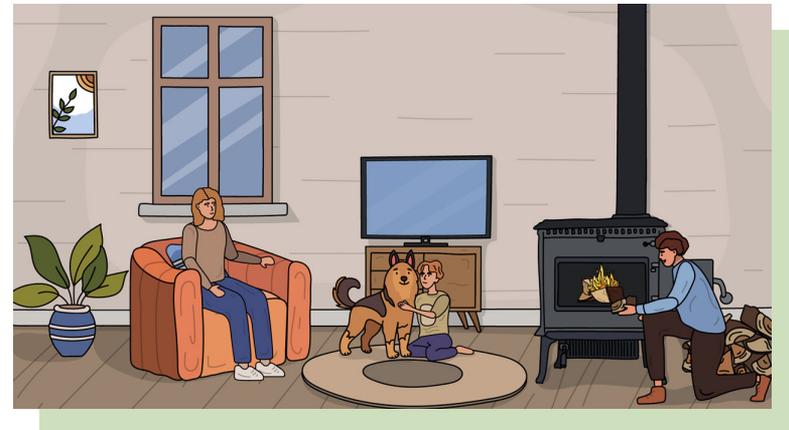


## EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS/VIDEO CLIPS

One of the components of the information campaign is the videos prepared by the Environmental Information and Education Centre. Within the various projects, 10 videos were prepared on the following topics: sustainable forest management, energy-efficient stoves, business yards, extension services, Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS), rules of conduct for persons with disabilities during 7 natural hazards, rules of conduct during avalanches and mudslides, climate ambassadors and young volunteers. The videos are adapted for persons with disabilities and also translated into the languages of ethnic minorities.

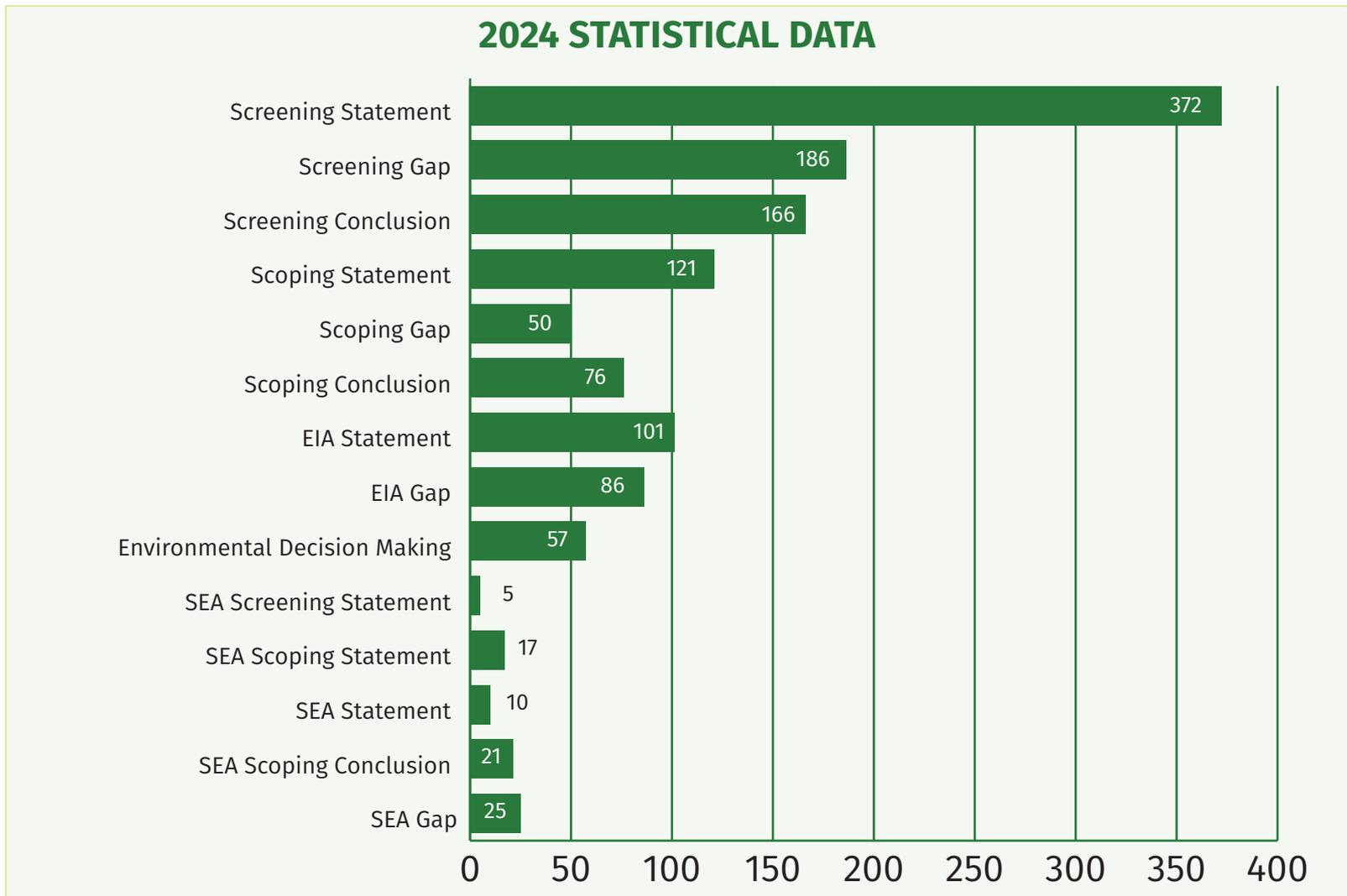
Brochures and posters for young people, eco-clubs, universities, and preschool institutions were developed and printed, as well as roadmaps for school principals, local governments, media, and university representatives.

Information is regularly shared with up to 7,000 subscribers via the EIEC e-mail.

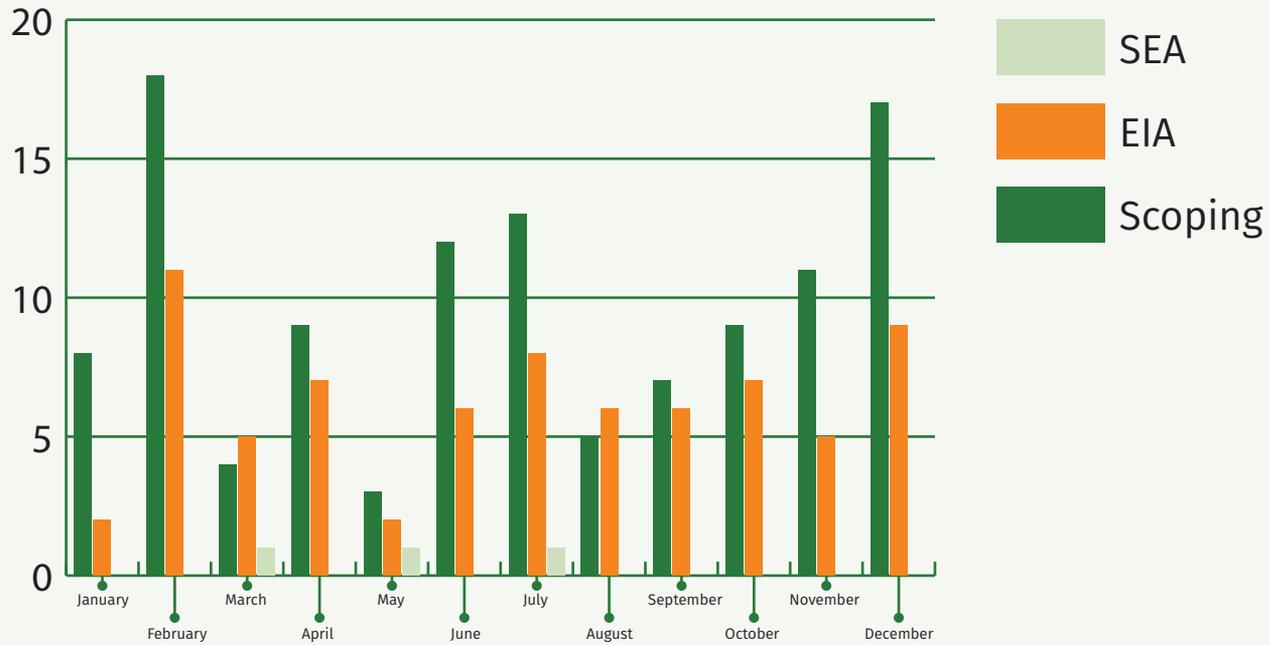




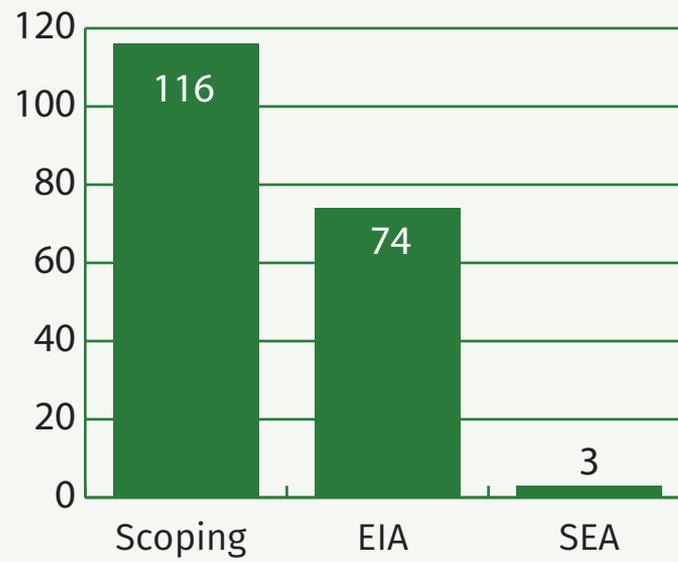
A total of 3,169 people participated in the promotion of public participation according to registration forms (1,293 women and 1,876 men). Information about the screening procedure was disseminated to about 372 applicants. The planned dissemination of activities according to the projects covered 10 regions and the Adjara Autonomous Region, Tbilisi, and 41 municipalities. Also, the existing documents on screening, scoping, and environmental decision-making are being uploaded to the electronic system, and the current applications are being disseminated in print media.



## PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS HELD BY PROJECTS, 2024



## PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS 2024



# ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION PORTAL – EI.GOV.GE

Under the Environmental Assessment Code, information on ongoing administrative processes and public discussions is published on the Environmental Information Portal- ei.gov.ge.

To simplify the search for information on the portal, search filters have been added, which allow the user to obtain the desired information according to their interests. Filtering is possible by specific procedure, procedure status, category, activity/strategic document, activity implementer/planning body, region, municipality, city/ village, and deadline for submitting comments.

**სსიპ გარემოსდაცვითი ინფორმაციისა და განათლების ცენტრი**

ჩვენ შესახებ | საზოგადოების მონაწილეობა | საჯარო ინფორმაცია | დოკუმენტები | თემები | სერვისები | ბმულები | ორგანიზაციები | კონტაქტი

**ცენტრის შესახებ**

2013 წლის 14 მაისს დაარსდა საქართველოს გარემოს დაცვისა და სოხლის მეურნეობის სამინისტროს საჯარო სამართლის იურიდიული პირი **გარემოსდაცვითი ინფორმაციისა და განათლების ცენტრი**, რომლის ძირითადი მიზნებია:

- საზოგადოების გარემოსდაცვითი და აგრარული განათლების ხელშეწყობა და ცნობიერების ამაღლება
- საჯარო განხილვების ორგანიზება და გარემოსდაცვითი გადაწყვეტილების მიღების პროცესში საზოგადოების ჩართულობა
- გარემოსდაცვითი და აგრარული ინფორმაციის ხელშეწყობის უზრუნველყოფა

ცენტრის საქმიანობა ეფუძნება "გარემოსდაცვითი საკითხებთან დაკავშირებული ინფორმაციის ხელშეწყობის, გადაწყვეტილების მიღების პროცესში საზოგადოების მონაწილეობისა და ამ სფეროში მართლმსაჯულების საკითხებზე ხელშეწყობის" შესახებ გაკეთდა რეგულირებული ცენტრის ორგანიზაციის ევროპის ეკონომიკური კომისიის კონვენციის (ორუსის კონვენციის) პრინციპებისა და გაეროს ევროპის ეკონომიკური კომისიის (UNECE) განათლება მედრადი განვითარებისთვის" სტრატეგიის ხედვებისა და მიზნობრივობებს.

ცენტრი ხელს უწყობს მედრად განვითარებას გარემოს კომპონენტებთან დაკავშირებული განათლებისა და სრულყოფილ ინფორმაციასთან ხელშეწყობის გზით.

გარემოსდაცვითი ინფორმაციისა და განათლების ცენტრი „პროექტულ განათლებაში განსაკუთრებული მიღწევისთვის კიდობი“ (VET Excellence Award) მფლობელია გამარჯვებული პროგრამის „გარემოსდაცვითი და აგრარული განათლება სკოლაში“ ევროკომისიის მიერ ორგანიზებული „ევროპის პროექტული უნარების ცვირეული 2022“-ის დაფარვებით. სსიპ საჯარო მედრად მედრად გამოვლინდა.

სსიპ გარემოსდაცვითი ინფორმაციისა და განათლების ცენტრი

**საბარო განხილვები**

მარტი 2025

ორ	სამ	ოთ	ხი	პრ	შბ	კვ
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM COMMISSION

**გარემოსდაცვითი პროგრამა**

**რა არის გარემოსდაცვითი პროგრამა?**  
საქართველოს სახელმწიფო ბიუჯეტში გარემოსთვის აკუმულირებული თანხები

საქართველოს კანონი „გარემოსდაცვითი პასუხისმგებლობის შესახებ“

**რას მოხმარდება?** ზიანის მიყენების პრევენციას დაზიანებული გარემოს მდგომარეობის აღდგენას

**ვინ წარმართავს პროცესს?** გარემოსდაცვითი პროგრამის კომისია

**გარემოს კვლევის ღონისძიებებს**      **გარემოს მდგომარეობის გაუმჯობესებას**

**კომისიის წევრები**  
სამინისტროები  
პარლამენტი  
გარემოსდაცვითი არასამთავრობო ორგანიზაციის საერთო წარმომადგენელი

**დაფინანსების გაცემის თაობაზე კომისია რეკომენდაციით მიმართავს გარემოს დაცვისა და მოვლის მუშაობის სამინისტროს**

**სად შეიძლება საპროექტო წინადადებების წარდგენა?**  
საიპ გარემოსდაცვითი ინფორმაციისა და გაბათილების ცენტრში, რომელიც წარმოადგენს გარემოსდაცვით პროგრამის კომისიის სამსახურს

გაიგეთ მეტი : [eiec.gov.ge](http://eiec.gov.ge)  
ცხელი ხაზი : 1501

ინოვაციური ბარათითვის მიწვევითი მისამართი: [www.eiec.gov.ge](http://www.eiec.gov.ge)

In 2023, an environmental program was established based on Georgia's law on " Environmental Liability". Its primary objectives are to avoid environmental harm, restore environmental harm, improve the environment, and fund environmental research. An advisory body known as the Environmental Program Commission was established at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia to manage the environmental program. The task of the commission is to formulate legally mandated recommendations for the implementation of environmental measures within the environmental program. The environmental program's secretariat is the Environmental Information and Education Centre.

The Centre, as an agency with the mandate of the Secretariat of the Environmental Program Commission, organized 2 meetings, coordinated the work of the working group, and received/processed the project proposals for submission to the Commission. The newsletter on the Commission's activities, structure, and project ideas was prepared to increase awareness level and ensure municipalities engagement in the Environmental Program's implementation.

Additionally, a training module on the "Environmental Liability System" was developed for local government leaders (mayors, municipal deputies, and heads of structural units). The pertinent training was given to 68 participants, 49 of whom were males and 19 of whom were female.

## PROJECTS

In 2024, the Environmental Information and Education Centre implemented activities within the 5 projects in collaboration with donors and partner organizations.

### **PROJECT: “SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOREST SECTOR REFORM IN GEORGIA – ECO. GEORGIA”**

- 🌳 School children attended information sessions and lectures on the forest sector and sustainable forest management;
- 🌳 The youth program "**Forest School**" was conducted, which included theoretical course as well as fieldwork;
- 🌳 Informational meeting was organized for Media representatives;
- 🌳 As part of the Open Days of Business Yards, seven municipalities hosted educational and cognitive events.



The project is being carried out in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) with financial assistance from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

## **PROJECT – DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA’S FIFTH NATIONAL COMMUNICATION AND THE FIRST BIENNIAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT (5NC/1 BTR) TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)**

- 🌿 Awareness-raising training was conducted for stakeholders on the integration of gender in the country's climate policy (37 participants, 30 female, 7 male);
- 🌿 A consultation meeting on the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and removals was held with stakeholders (31 participants, 20 women, 11 men);
- 🌿 Consultation meetings were held with stakeholders (65 participants, 40 female, 25 male) regarding various chapters of the 5NC/1 BTR document;
- 🌿 The National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Document was developed
- 🌿 Data on greenhouse gas emissions and removals by sector for 2023 were collected and processed;
- 🌿 Georgia's First Biennial Transparency Report and Fifth National Communication were developed;
- 🌿 Awareness-raising infographics were created



The project is implemented by the Environmental Information and Education Centre with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

## **PROJECT – MODERNISATION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET) SYSTEMS IN AGRICULTURE IN GEORGIA (PHASE 3):**

- 🌿 An international memoranda was signed between the Environmental Information and Education Centre, the Vocational Skills Agency, and the Bern University of Applied Sciences (HAFL).
- 🌿 A memoranda was signed with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara to promote agricultural education and improve the qualifications of extensionists.
- 🌿 Regional development goals for Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) in the regions of Guria and Imereti have been developed.
- 🌿 An action plan and recommendations have been included in the National AKIS document.
- 🌿 A framework document for an extensionist's qualification has been produced as a standard.
- 🌿 8 training modules and 5 extension packages were developed.



- 🌿 Climate-smart agriculture educational module was integrated in agricultural programs of the Skills Agency and two higher education institutions
- 🌿 Within the Agro League contest, 18 students and school children were awarded

- 🌱 Information meetings and conferences were held at the national and regional levels on the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Unified System (AKIS).
- 🌱 Students attended meetings aimed at advancing the agriculture sector.
- 🌱 Training courses were held in various priority agricultural fields.

The project is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by the Environmental Information and Education Centre with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).



## **PROJECT: “EXPANDING THE MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND THE USE OF CLIMATE-RELATED INFORMATION IN GEORGIA”**

### **Information meetings were held:**

- 🌿 About the implemented, ongoing, and planned activities within the project for representatives of newly identified municipalities;
- 🌿 In order to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change in learning process for representatives of partner Universities;
- 🌿 About the implemented, ongoing, and planned activities within the project with local governments, universities, students, resource centre and kindergarten heads, school administration, the general public, and organisations that support the disability community;
- 🌿 Youth forum to enhance youth's capacities and encourage their engagement with agricultural and environmental concerns;
- 🌿 Regarding green deficit initiatives to promote environmental causes and occupations.



## Trainings

- 🌿 Introductory course on climate change disasters (specific hazards and rules of conduct);
- 🌿 On geological and hydrological hazards and the use of hazard maps for representatives of local governments, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (rangers, foresters, and employees of the Environmental Supervision Department);
- 🌿 The rules of conduct during climate change disasters for persons with disabilities;
- 🌿 “On climate change disaster risk management and the use of hazard maps”, for Green Fellows and youth;
- 🌿 “On the importance of climate change disaster risk management and emergency management plans for school principals and representatives of preschool institutions;
- 🌿 “Covering climate change disaster issues” for media representatives.



A training module on disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation management was developed for undergraduate courses at higher education institutions. These topics were integrated into the master's programme of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA). At the undergraduate level of Telavi Iakob Gogebashvili State University, the course on climate change was updated, and a course on disaster risk reduction was added. The interactive map has been updated to reflect all the news occurring within the project.



The Green Climate Fund (GCF), in collaboration with the Environmental Information and Education Centre and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), is providing financial assistance for the project's implementation.

## PROJECT- “CREATING EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ON FOOD SAFETY FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN”

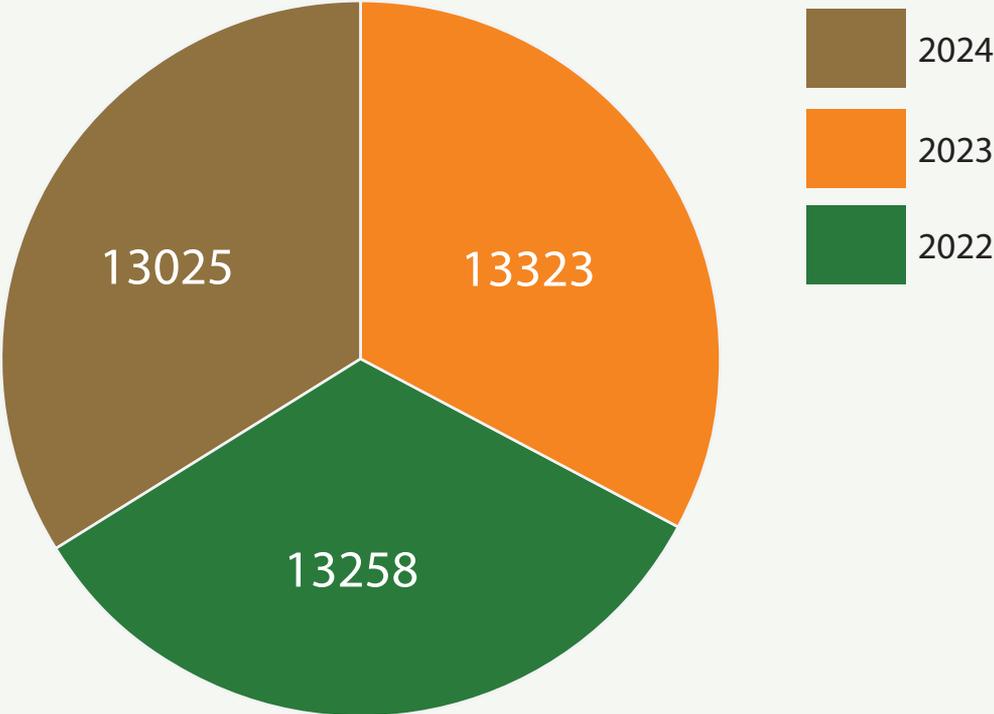
- 🌿 Five pilot seminars on the subject of "food safety" were conducted with schools, and educational materials were created;
- 🌿 A ToT training was conducted for teachers to further introduce “food safety” topics at the primary and secondary levels of schools.

The project is implemented with the support of the Czech Development Agency (CzDA).



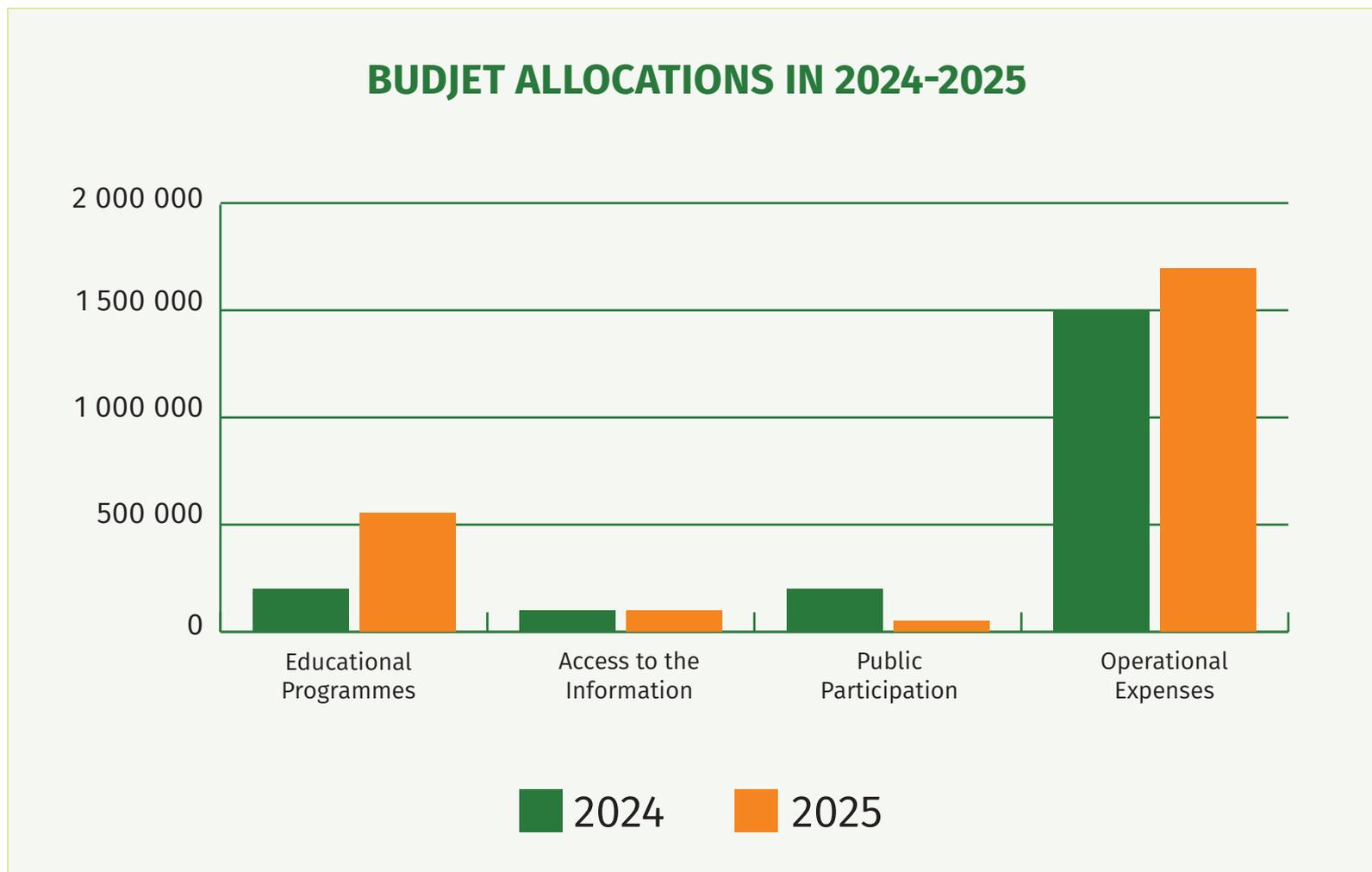
A total of 13,025 people participated in the educational and awareness-raising activities as well as public discussions of the Environmental Information and Education Centre during 2024.

### NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN EIEC ACTIVITIES



## FINANCIAL REPORT

The approved budget of the LEPL Environmental Information and Education Centre in 2024 amounted to 2,000,000.00 GEL.



## FUTURE PLANS

Promoting continuous education in the environmental and agricultural fields and raising awareness is one of the significant priorities for the development of these areas, within the implementation of the “Preschool Environmental Education” program in preschool institutions and the “Environmental and Agricultural Education Program” at the primary school level will continue, the “Environmental and Agricultural Education Program” will be developed and implemented at the basic, secondary and higher education levels of schools, shortage professions will be popularized, relevant professional staff will be trained, and projects in this direction will continue to be implemented, which will maximally contribute to the formation of a society with the right values towards agriculture and the environment. Also, mechanisms for promoting public participation in the process of environmental decision-making and the dissemination of environmental information will be strengthened.

Taking into account the main goals of the Environmental Information and Education Centre in 2025, the following programs are planned to be implemented:

- 🌱 Expanding and implementing the Green and Agro Scholarship Program
- 🌱 Supporting the integration of the master's program "Circular Economy" in Georgian universities
- 🌱 Developing and implementing of supporting textbooks for the basic and secondary levels of environmental and agricultural education programs

***„Acquire knowledge and skills to create a better environment“***

