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NEWSLETTER

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2023

Dear partners and friends, with this issue of IOM Georgia's newsletter, we bring to you our major achievements and most recent publications in the months of April, May, June 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS/NEWS



Europe Day 2023

On May 6, at exhibition center Expo Georgia, an event dedicated to Europe Day was organized by the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia and celebrated together with thousands of visitors. The event was officially opened by Georgian government authorities and the EU Ambassador. Throughout the day participants of the event, young and old, enjoyed a variety of activities. The Embassies of the

European Union Member States presented their cultures and traditions in “Euro village”, including performances of singing and dancing. Partners of the European Union, including IOM Georgia, showcased the results and benefits for Georgian citizens, which have been created thanks to the EU’s assistance to Georgia.

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IOM Held a Two-Day Retreat with the State Commission on Migration Issues (SCMI)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) held a two-day retreat with the State Commission on Migration Issues (SCMI) on 12-13 April 2023. The primary aim of this event was to validate priorities within the rapidly evolving context of Georgia. Event was opened by Mrs. Sanja Celebic Lukovac, Chief of Mission of IOM Georgia, and the co-chair of the UN Network on Migration in Georgia; Mr. George Jashi, Executive Secretary of the State Commission on Migration Issues; and Dr. Sabine Machl, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia, and the co-chair of the UN Network on Migration in Georgia.

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EU and IOM Strengthen Georgia's Capacities to Implement Efficient Border Checks

On June 30, in the framework of the EU funded "Support to Integrated Border Management in Georgia" project, IOM Georgia donated the radio communication equipment and the document examination devices to the Patrol Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia (MIA).

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IOM Georgia Participated in 13th LED Forum

On May 3-31, in Tbilisi, at Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, 13th Local Economic Development Forum under the title “Sustainable Development – Green, Smart, Business-Friendly” was held. The main goal of the event was the experience, modern approaches and ideas sharing, which creates sustainable and enduring prospects for further cooperation in terms of the cities’ development. After the official opening, in the framework of the event, on May 30, Tbilisi City Hall and IOM Georgia jointly hosted discussion panel under the title – “Migration Influence on City’s Development.”

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IOM Georgia and Batumi Municipality City Council will cooperate to support the returning migrants’ reintegration process in Adjara. To this end Chief of Mission of IOM Georgia, Mrs. Sanja Celebic Lukovac met with Mr. Archil Chikovani, Mayor of Batumi Municipality in Batumi, Adjara.

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IOM Georgia and the Administration of the State Representative of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Region will cooperate to reintegrate returning migrants. To this end, on May 24, Chief of Mission of IOM Georgia, Mrs. Sanja Celebic Lukovac met with Deputy Governor of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Region, David Kukhaleishvili.

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EU and IOM Enhance Georgia's Border Surveillance Capacities

Sophisticated border surveillance equipment together with relevant infrastructure and vehicles, funded by the EU and procured by IOM with a total value of EUR 1.25 million (GEL 3.5 million), will further develop the abilities of the Government of Georgia to combat irregular migration and cross-border crime. Vakhtangisi, 11 April 2023 - Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Aleksandre Darakhvelidze and the Head of Border Police, Mr. Nikoloz Sharadze have welcomed Mr. Pawel Herczynski, EU Ambassador to Georgia and Mrs. Sanja Celebic Lukovac, IOM Chief of Mission to the formal donation ceremony at Vakhtangisi border sector.

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IOM Georgia Participated in Diaspora Forum in Tbilisi

On 27 May 2023, a forum dedicated to Diaspora Day “Strong Diaspora for Georgia's Unity, Peace and European Future” was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The key goal of the annual event was to deepen relationships and dialogue with Georgian community members living abroad. The event was held with the support of the Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).

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On May 8, in Tkibuli Youth Center an event was held in the framework of the Europe Day celebration in Georgia. IOM Kutaisi representative Tinatin Endeladze also attended the celebration, she talked about the benefits of the visa-free travel for Georgian citizens, as well as shared the useful information regarding the existing regulations.

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IOM Georgia, Kutaisi office representatives participated in the event within the “Europe Day 2023” celebration in Georgia. The speakers shared with the audience the information connected with the safe and the circular migration, to work and study abroad, the travel regulations etc.

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IOM Georgia Presented to Imereti Governor the Results of the Initiatives Implemented in Imereti Region

Chief of Mission of IOM Georgia, Mrs. Sanja Celebic Lukovac met with Governor of Imereti Region Zviad Shalamberidze and presented the results of the project implemented in the region during 2020-2022

within the “Sustainable Reintegration and Community Revitalization Pilot Initiative in Communities of Return” project funded by the International Organization for Migration Development Fund (IDF).

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Local MGI Data Workshop was Held

On June 13, 2023, in Hilton Garden Inn Tbilisi Hotel, the local migration governance indicators (LMGI) data workshop was held. The main objective of the workshop was to present the key findings of the LMGI process and keep building the government's buy-in process, complement the information using the inventory of pending questions and jointly identify the government's priorities.

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20+ YEARS OF SERVICE IN IOM GEORGIA



In recognition and appreciation of 20+ years of loyal, dedicated and untiring service towards the mandate and success of the organization, Mrs. Sanja Celebic Lukovac, Chief of Mission of IOM Georgia presented the Service Award to its staff members, Sophie Kharashvili, Resource Management Officer, Rusudan Imnaishvili, National Program Officer/AVRR to Georgia, Tea Khutsishvili, Senior Operations Assistant and Massimo Ramanzin, Senior Program Manager/IBG. On behalf of IOM Georgia, we congratulate Sophie, Rusudan, Tea and Massimo on this well-deserved success!

“ONE DAY IN IOM” INFO SESSION FOR US EMBASSY INTERNS





On June 20, at the International Organization of Migration (IOM) Tbilisi office, informational session “One Day in IOM” was held for the US Embassy to Georgia interns. Up to 20 interns attended the session that aimed to promote IOM’s work as well as to share information regarding IOM/UN work in Georgia.

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IOM Georgia Organized Workshop for Batumi Municipal Services Agency Staff

On 21-22 June ,2023, in Batumi, Adjara, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Georgia organized the workshops for Batumi Municipal Services Agency Service Centers staff. The workshops aimed to introduce the referral guide for reintegration of the returned migrants. The guide, developed by IOM Georgia, consolidates information about public, as well as non-state services and programs available in Georgia.

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STORY



Faces of Migration - Nana Khachidze, 39, Permanent Make-up Specialist, Trainer

Meet Nana Khachidze, 39, returnee from Greece. Nana returned to Georgia through the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Program, which also contributed to her smooth reintegration process in the home country.

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Ensuring Healthy Environment for Healthier Future

Matkhoji is one of the biggest villages in Khoni municipality, Imereti region. This area, which accommodates around 450 households, including considerable number of returned migrants and families with members who migrated abroad, was lacking a common recreation zone or the entertainment square.

To this end, in the framework of the project “Sustainable Reintegration and Community Revitalization Pilot Initiative in Communities of Return”, random polling was conducted, in which 60% of the locals participated, revealing that the creation of the entertainment square was the number one priority for the community. Through International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Khoni municipality joint efforts, now Matkhoji village already has a beautiful recreation area equipped with the high standard, modern inventory.

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Equipping Communities to Build a Better Tomorrow

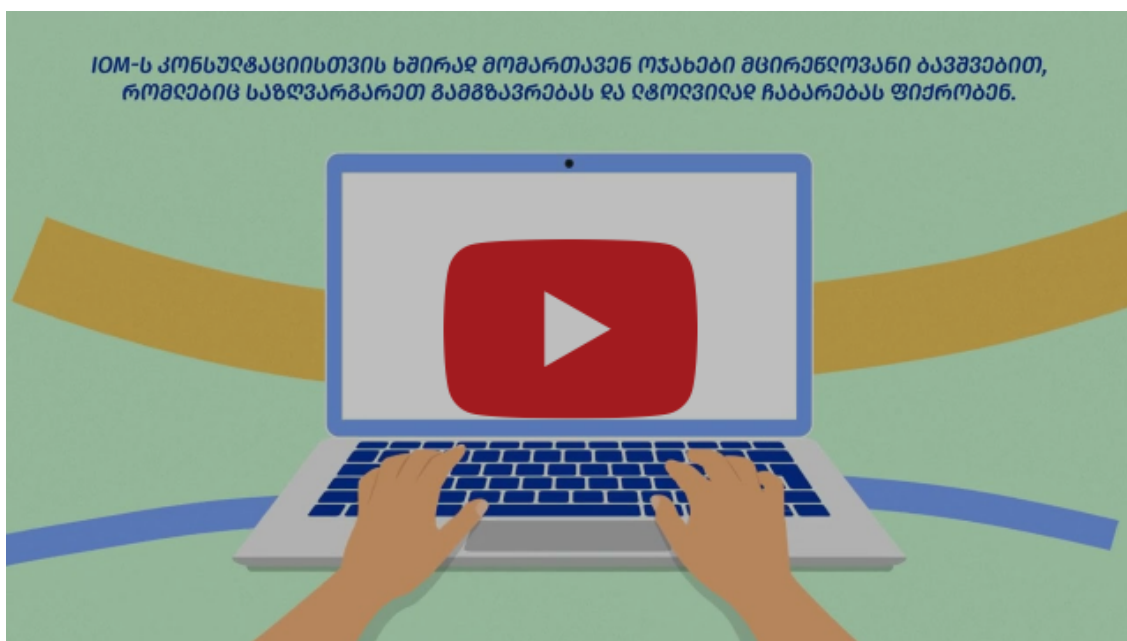
Last year almost 3,000 migrants returned to Georgia with IOM support - the highest number ever. The true number of the returnees who are getting back through various channels is far more and most of them arrive with no savings, and no jobs, to communities that are already disadvantaged and offer them few prospects. In a bid to assist these returning migrants and their communities, IOM is teaming up with local authorities to implement different types of community-based projects, including creating multifunctional service center, which provides tools and equipment for community use.

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NEW VIDEO



EU and IOM Enhance Georgia's Border Surveillance Capacities.



Watch a short video about the risks of unfounded asylum applications from Georgia to the EU/Schengen Area.

That's it for this issue. We will be back with more updates in three months.
IOM Georgia Team.

IOM Activities are funded by:





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