1. Objective and relevance (the world around us)

* What is the main purpose with the intervention, including challenges that need to be addressed?

This project’s aim is to strengthen capacities of local youth policy structures in four (4) municipalities (Martvili, Senaki, Tsalenjikha and Khobi) of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region in Georgia, towards a more inclusive, participatory, conducive, and responsive youth policy environment to youth issues. And we want to document this into a model that can easily be replicated in other periphery regions of the country. This will entail consultatively developing and delivering a mobilization and competence-development program for 216 youths, 12 civil society actors, and 8 civil servants that are actively involved in youth policy development. These will in turn reach out to at least 7600 youth and youth policy stakeholders in the region. The above will be complimented with strengthening of avenues for evidence-based municipal youth policy through introducing, further development and localizing/systematizing of the National Youth Policy Document/guide developed in March 2014 but is yet to be fully devolved to periphery regions like this one.

The reach our overall aims, our project will run according to three specific objectives as follows.

1. To increase the competences (mobilize & capacitate) of youths, civil society organisations and civil servants to address youth issues in a participatory & inclusive manner at local municipal level.
2. To foster the establishment of sustainable forms of cooperation among youths, local youth organisations and local authorities for enabling youth participatory policy dialogue and inputs.
3. Based on the National Youth Policy Document and the lessons learned, design a regional-based/contextualized youth policy guide and an action plan for bringing this to use, and advocate for its approval and uptake.

**Background:**

Evidence generated over the past many years shows a very weak level of political, civil, and social participation of youngsters in Georgia. According to research conducted by UNICEF in 2015 [[1]](#footnote-1), 15-29 years old young people in Georgia live rather inactive public lives. They have limited knowledge about their citizen rights and duties, where for example only 11.6% of 15- to 29-year-old Georgian are aware of their civic duties, matching with the only 10.9% of young people attesting to participating in decision-making processes, and only 11.9% of young people say have participated in voluntary activities around youth issues in their local communities. The number of young people who use Internet forums to express their opinions on political, social, economic, or other issues of public importance is higher (23%) due to the accessibility of these for a to the tech-friendly generation, but again, only remains below ¼ of the youth population.

Several specific aspects create these limitations. Summed up by a joint updatory surveys by Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Sports and Youth Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia in 2020, although the country provides for a youth policy framework in the National Youth Policy Document of 2014, several regions remain with ill-manned and unfinanced youth work departments, youth workers in many regions lack the competencies to do their job, there is little consultation of young people in these policy processes, which generally makes youth policy participation widely inaccessible to young people. As a result of this limited participation and inputs from the young people, opportunities created for young people are not evidence-based and do not correspond to the needs of young people, therefore not offering youngsters sufficient space for personal development, acquiring important life-skills, developing competences, and civic participation, especially in the regions. One of the results on this is massive internal migration of young people to the capital and other big cities in search of education, and other opportunities.

And, while the representation is even lower in periphery regions of the country, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region our focus for this intervention presents a special case. Bordering Abkhazia, an autonomous republic within the legal borders of Georgia, mainly internationally isolated, and only dependent on Russia – both, politically and economically, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region faces several challenges.

* The region plays home to a huge population of internally displaced Georgians that were violently forced out of Abkhazia based on ethnic background back in 1993 the year of its de facto independence.
* Mostly living in collective shelters since 1993 this displaced population demands constant crisis-management in form of case-to-case difficulties of citizens, continued border crossings of newcomers, constant danger of human right violations on both sides of the border, etc.
* With around 50000 Georgians remaining in the Abkhazia region where they are considered second-class citizens and often denied access to basic services, these resort to seeking for healthcare services and social support on the Georgian side (Samegrelo region), putting further pressure on the region.
* But most significantly, a majority part of this population is young people between 18 and 29 years that aspire to improve their conditions, burn for involvement, want to emulate other youths elsewhere in the country, but the youth policy environment in the region do not provide the ample space for this.
* It is important to mention, that after the graduation from the high school, majority of the young people mostly move to bigger cities for higher education and job opportunities and do their best to stay away, leaving the region depleted of an otherwise energetic population that could trigger long term growth.
* Describe the context of the intervention:

**Location and structuring:** Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region where the project will take place lies in western Georgia, bordering the Russia controlled de facto Abkhazia region. Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti is divided into nine self-governed municipalities[[2]](#footnote-2), each consisting of two bodies: a city council and a city hall. In addition, regions have an appointed state representative with coordinating functions between the regional and central government for policy coherence. Each city hall has a youth department that is responsible for youth affairs in each municipality, however, due to lack of competence on youth-related issues, activities of such departments are mostly limited to sports events being interpreted as the only youth friendly activities.

This structuring to a greater part means that Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region stands alone with several challenges as mentioned earlier, but this autonomy also means that enabling the region and its municipalities to manage their local issues like we intend with this youth issues in this project has a great potential of delivering high impact results. And being a similar government model across the country means that success here will be easily replicable in other regions struggling with similar challenges.

**The role/mandate of civil society actors – including APD:**

Due to the underdeveloped youth policy on the country level, youth opportunities in the country are mostly provided by civil society organizations. For example, the municipal youth policy development in two municipalities of the region – Chkhorotsku and Poti (as well as two municipalities in other regions of Georgia) is currently conducted by the Academy for Peace and Development under funding from the European Union. APD has already holds Memorandums of understanding with the city halls of target municipalities and Youth Agency of Georgia, which gives this project a strong formal foundation from the start. Moreover, several capacity-building processes and elaboration of municipality-specific policy papers and action plans for grounding these are already in process in Chkhorotsku and Poti, which creates fertile grounds for experience-sharing once we start implementing this project.

But it is also worth noting that the representation of civil society in Samegrelo region is extremely uneven, with flourishing NGO sector in Zugdidi municipality (the center of the region), but with almost no NGOs in other municipalities. This makes our ambition to extend to more regions a desired move both for the municipalities and for the young people/local population here.

**Existing blocks for youth policy and frameworks:**

Encouraged by successful practices of European countries, Georgian civil society organisations started to initiate development of youth-related strategies in 2007 (on the first Forum of Georgian Youth Organisations, initiated and organized by APD). Since then, the topic of youth policy development has been actively discussed/advocated by CSOs. Indeed, with the aim of encouraging establishment of relevant environment for a comprehensive youth development to fully realize their potential and be actively involved in all the spheres of the public life, Georgia adopted the National Youth Policy Document in 2014.

However, joint updatory surveys conducted by Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Sports and Youth Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia in 2020 [[3]](#footnote-3) revealed that existence of the youth policy document at the central government level does not necessarily translate into the development of the youth field in the regions of the country. This is mainly due to weak communication and coordination between the center and peripheries, and that there exist low capacities of regional government representations to carry out youth policy. And that, although policy provides a useful framework, it is not fully representative of the realities of the local contexts in the regions, and thus needs to be articulated further to fit specific needs.

Summative, according to the same research, municipal youthwork faces the following challenges:

* The activities carried out at the municipal level are mostly limited to sport events, omitting opportunities that develop youth active engagement in policy dialogue and formation.
* Local self-government bodies are less aware of the real needs of youngsters because they are out of touch with them. Consultations with young people and youth organisations are almost never used as a mechanism for identifying needs, and action plans are not based on study results. Action plans are mainly developed based on the personal views/ideas of the entities/individuals responsible for the implementation of the youth policy. Young people are not involved in the strategy processes.
* Youth-work and youth-policy management related competences of the civil servants responsible for youth affairs on municipal level remain challenged.

On a regional level, Georgia is part of several treaties that bide the country to facilitating that young people and their local communities have ample space for public and policy participation, as well as a mandate for civil societies to be part of enabling this. The Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia established as a principle in its article 370 b) to enhance civil society participation in the public decision-making process, particularly by maintaining an open, transparent and regular dialogue between the public institutions and representative associations and civil society; and d) to enable civil society representatives from each side to become acquainted with the processes of consultation and dialogue between civil society, including social partners, and public authorities in particular with a view to strengthen civil society in the public policy-making process.

United Nations Resolution #74/121 also encourages its members to involve different sectors of civil society in decision-making process. In article #30 of the convention, United Nations Organisation addresses the issue of youth participation - “(UN) Recognizes that the contributions of young people are important for the full and successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and urges Member States and United Nations entities, in consultation with youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to explore and promote concrete new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular, while implementing the 2030 Agenda”.

**The relevance of policy participation:**

Since active participation is an extremely powerful tool to empower young people to play a vital role in their own development and contributing to the development of their communities, we find it vital to initiate reformative interventions in the field of youth to introduce democratic decision-making process as one of the strongest pillars of democracy-building on one hand and youth engagement as an instrument for youth empowerment on the other. To strengthen youth participation, key actors in the field (local government, civil society organisations, youth) must be given the proper tools, such as information, education, guidance, and access to rights and participation. This lays foundation for our projects.

* Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organising:

The project contributes to this in many ways:

* It will significantly contribute to democracy-building on the local level through strengthening the competences of the stakeholders in the field on participatory decision-making, which builds the foundations for recognizing that all stakeholders are relevant in the process of local development.
* Most importantly, bringing the different stakeholders – youths, civil servants, Civil Society, and others to work together in this project will create spaces for establishing a long-term structured inter-stakeholder dialogue on municipal level.
* Participation in youth needs assessment, thematic capacity building activities and the youth council components of the project will notably strengthen the competence of young people on youth participation and motivate them to proactively engage in public life on the local level.
* Training courses on youthwork and youth policy management, as well as structured dialogue, introduced in the frames of the intervention will enable local public bodies and civil society organisations to introduce and establish a participatory decision-making process as a main approach in youth policy management and youthwork.
* The practice of public discussion of policy documents, introduced during the project and engaging multiple stakeholders, such as local government, civil society organisations, youth, parents, schools and other educational bodies, sport and culture entities and others, will bring the local decision-making process to a completely new, more democratic level.
* What climate- and environmental conditions do the partnership/intervention need to respond to?

Although we do not state any direct environmental targets, by tackling policy and related plans and budgets at the local level, our project directly concerns with issues regarding to sustainability of such policies both socially and environmentally. Development as defined under the SDGs also stresses that “we leave no one behind” and that “we do no harm”. These two principles will follow ensuring that all our engagements and discussions are also environmentally sustainable in places where this focus has been low or unintentional. Regarding monitoring we will need to travel to Georgia to at some point to interface with both the partners and local communities, but we will limit this to only two rounds, and with the conscious understanding that our future projects will entail lesser of these. And where we have the chance to do this virtually, we will always choose the latter.

The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

**Civil Connections Community Foundation – CCCF:**

CCCF aims to increase value in international development initiatives with local grassroots communities, by building bridges for commonly unreached local grassroots development actors (especially rural), through outfitting these with exposure, capacity, motivation, and mentorship for long-term sustainability.

**Our mission** is to facilitate grassroots development actors to achieve their aims for a fair and sustainable world. This is reached through four areas:

1. Identifying and make known/visible local community initiatives from the different locations we work in, that would otherwise find it difficult to gain such visibility for a great job they are doing.
2. Facilitating the strengthening of capacities of the identified local actors to be able to sustain as well as multiply their good achievements in their local communities as well as to the global level.
3. Supporting identified local grassroots development partners and activists in resource mobilization and joint fundraising as a way of closing resource needs that commonly hinder longer-term survival.
4. And, implementing a knowledge development hub - including an online journal of knowledge, working tools, methodologies, and other resources, aimed at building further knowledge and awareness.

We are currently implementing two CISU funded projects in Uganda, specifically; The small-scale ICT in education in Yumbe district that pilots an immensely interesting telephone-based home teaching method with amazing results – (see here). And the newly launched “Structures for youth policy and budget participation on Uganda’s decentralized system in Yumbe and Mayuge district (see here).

These are accompanied by several other projects funded by among other the ERASMUS+ of the EU, NORDPLUS of the Nordic Council, and Oplysnispulje of the Kulturstyrelsen in Denmark.

Read more about CCCF on “Vores CISU” platform or here: [www.civilconnections.org](http://www.civilconnections.org)

**The Academy for Peace and Development (APD)**

APD is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organisation, which aims at empowering youth and civil society actors for living and building peace in Georgia, South Caucasus, Europe and beyond through development of competences, advocating participatory policy development and promoting partnerships on cross-sectorial and intra-sectorial levels. Established in 2002, the organization has over the years developed a strong profile in peacebuilding, youth policy development, and education for young people. Within this context, APD realised various programmes on local, national, regional, and international levels with diverse donors and partners from across Europe. APD is implementing both short and long-term educational programmes for young people and NGOs in Georgia. APD is actively involved in the development of a coherent youth policy in Georgia.

APD is the initiator and one of the founders of the annual Georgian youth organisations forum, which aims at giving active youth organisations and stakeholders of the youth field an opportunity to gather, to discuss the relevant topics and challenges of the field and find possible solutions, meet potential partners, discuss youth-related decisions and documents, plan joint initiatives. The organization was the first civil society organization in Georgia who initiated the first steps of youth policy development on the national level back in 2007 and is now an active contributor to youth policy development process on municipal levels.

For the moment, Academy for Peace and Development is implementing a two years-long EU-funded project “Empower for Change – Strengthening Local Capacities for Youth Participation” which aims at strengthening capacities of local youth structures to engage in an inclusive and participatory cooperation on youth issues in four municipalities of Georgia. The project is currently on the stage of designing the youth policy documents and action plans in target municipalities. APD is headquartered in Tbilisi, although majority of the projects carried out by APD take place in different regions of Georgia. APD has been working in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region since 2018, where the organization established strong partnerships on cross sectoral level and gained trust among target groups.

**Capacity of the personnel involved:**

The main project lead – Manana (Maka) Sartania is the Executive director of the Academy for Peace and Development, and trainer in youth participation, peace education, personal development. She is involved in youthwork since 2001 and in youth policy issues since 2007. In APD Maka is responsible for developing and directing organisational strategy and policy, developing organisational action plans, communication with donors, partners, and stakeholders, monitoring of long-term programs and conducting day to day executive activities. Besides the decision-making and supervision role Maka is involved in elaboration of training modules and manuals on various topics related to youth policy.

On a general level, the APD team involves professionals of youthwork and peace education with various cultural backgrounds and rich practical experience in both – management of youth-related interventions and training-providing for young people and youth stakeholders. Read more here:

* Describe any previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners, and how these experiences have fed into the development of the proposed intervention.

Civil Connections and APD will be cooperating on organizational level for the first time, however Andrew Julius Bende the Daily Leader and the person responsible for this partnership has worked with APD and Maka (the Executive Director of APD) for several years during his past employments. These two have found their organization’s objectives – especially regarding Civil Connections’ ambition to support marginalized communities towards changing their odds, an aspiration APD also shares. Both organizations are also keen on empowering young people, and building long-term, mutual respect-based partnerships, which will be central values across this project.

* Describe the contributions, roles, and responsibilities of the partners and other actors.

On a general level Civil Connections will be the lead coordinating partner, facilitating the overall framework for the success of the project, and keeping in contact with the funder CISU for reporting and guidance. Specifically, Civil Connections will be lead on the following activities:

* Charged with overall project contract and coordination roles. Entailing facilitating that implementation frameworks and plans for ensuring success are in place & adhered to or adjusted if needed.
* The responsibility to follow-up and remotely/virtually monitors the project in Georgia. This will be through online meetings, two-time monitoring visits, quarterly reports, communication.
* The overall responsibility the project budgets and accountability & reporting to the funder CISU
* In collaboration with APD be part of the training program in Georgia, giving motivation talks online and comprehensively discussing and drawing the implementation plan together with APD.
* CCCF will also be part of the mentoring program involving in online motivation sessions, discussion etc.

APD at the local level will oversee all implementations in Georgia, dialoging with and always updating Civil Connections to ensure that the project keeps to its promises.

* APD will physically implement all the project activities in Georgia. This will entail ensuring that logistics, participants, partners, trainers, experts, mentors, etc. are always in place on desired time.
* APD have the responsibility for local monthly monitoring of the project and updating Civil Connections on this
* APD will be part of the joint monitoring, including quarterly reporting and follow up virtual meetings.
* APD NAC will oversee the local financial management and identifying an auditor that fits formal guidelines.
* APD will locally administer the project and fit it into their annual strategy/plan for smooth running.
* Describe how the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration between the partners.

The project will contribute to further development of our partner relationship and collaboration as follows:

Although it is our first project, CCCF and APD or more specifically the different coordinators on each side have been collaborating for a long time. For example, APD and Civil Connections have been part of developing joint EU projects, and other activities. This not forgetting the earlier collaboration Andrew and Maka have had while Andrew worked at Crossing Borders. This project will strengthen this collaboration.

Secondly, a project like this (based on an issue of common interest) will give us the platform to develop joint strategies for both interventions that build on this, as well as in other direction. We will learn to work together, formalize our communication, identify each’s other interests, and build a strong relationship. Moreover, since the intervention is related to policymaking, it requires deep understanding of the social background and development processes happening on the local level in Georgia. Discussions and experience sharing will contribute to strengthening the common ground, common understanding of challenges and their roots. This joint intervention will open new horizons for cooperation, contributing to democratic development of the country through empowering different groups of society.

Target groups, objectives, and expected results (our intervention)

* Describe the composition of the target groups:
* Describe how the target groups will participate in- and benefit from the intervention.

We have chosen to merge the answer to the above two questions because it will be more logical for us to relate the different stakeholders to the specific objectives and related outputs presented here below.

Direct target groups of the intervention:

* 216 young people between 16 and 24 years old from the four target municipalities will be the biggest target group of the intervention. This will be composed of:
  + 16 young people that will be involved in capacity building cycle together with civil servants and representatives of civil society organisations to get capacitated to mobilize other young people, as well as lead the youth councils created on the later stage of the project. These will together with the project coordinators also be responsible for needs assessment in the field of youth on municipal level and monitoring of youth-related programs of the local government.
  + 200 young people who will be involved in capacity building cycle designed for young people in the frames of the project to acquire competences necessary for structured dialogue with local government and civil society sector. These will be involved in all stages of youth-related processes from decision-making to monitoring and follow-up. After the capacity building phase, youngsters will be able to become the part of youth councils or initiate variety of activities independently or in cooperation with CSOs. All young people will be selected through open calls. Information will be spread via multiple channels (educational resource center, schools, local media etc.); Project team will do their best to keep the gender balance, although, taking into consideration previous experience, engagement of more female participants is expected. Project team will make sure to have different categories of young people represented in the group.
* 8 civil servants employed in youth departments of the city halls in target municipalities is another important direct target group. This will entail two employees from each city hall, who will be mobilized as youth policy managers, will be directly involved in the youth policy management cycle, and appointed as project ambassadors responsible for youth-policy management on municipal level.
* 12 Civil society organisations/initiative groups working in the field of youth in the four target municipalities will be engaged in project. This will involve 1 representative of three civil society organisations/initiative groups from each municipality (1 person x 3 CSOs x 4 municipalities = 12), who will be involved in capacity building activities and youth policy management cycle to contribute to evidence-based and participatory decision-making process on municipal level.
* Finally, at least 120 representatives of a combination of schools and other educational bodies, parents, as well as representatives of the mayor in the communities and other stakeholders, who will be involved in youth needs assessment, public discussion of policy documents and implementation of the action plan. These will compose of at least 30 representatives per target municipality.

**Indirect target groups:**

Youth and the stakeholders of youth field in Martvili, Senaki, Tsalenjikha and Khobi municipalities – comprising of around 7600 young people, their families and broader society will indirectly benefit from the outcomes of the project. Local youth will get an opportunity to make their voice heard, their needs considered and enjoy evidence-based youth-related opportunities.

* Describe the objectives and expected results.

As introduced in section 1, our project will run based on three specific objectives, under which we will deliver several outputs and related results. All these are presented below.

**Objective 1** is: To increase the competences (mobilize & capacitate) of young people, civil society organisations and civil servants to address youth issues in a participatory and inclusive manner at local community/municipal level.

To reach this we will deliver the following outputs:

* 1. Mobilize and deliver trainings in youth work and youth policy management to at least 16 young leaders, 8 civil servants, and 12 civil society organisations/initiative groups representatives across the four municipalities, aimed at giving them tools and hands on methodologies on how to support inclusive youth policy development in their municipalities. The youth policy management training series/modules include among others:
     1. Training course and dialogues on Introduction to youth policy, needs assessment, identification of actors and designing a communication plan in the four municipalities.
     2. Training course and dialogues on implementation of the action plan developed in 1.1.1 above, and policy monitoring and evaluation (monitoring of the action plan as a learning/training process).
     3. Training course on youthwork, specifically concretizing aspects around youths needs assessment, stakeholder analysis, public mobilization and dialogue/discussions, participatory development of youth policy document and joint review of the action plan under implementation.

The three categories will have the crucial role of mobilizing other young people (see 1.2 below) to be part of the youth policy cycles in the different municipalities. A main result of this is that the municipalities will get a long-term and sustainable access to qualified youth policy stakeholders, able to follow this cycle of youth policy management in a competently.

* 1. Mobilize and capacitate (through various workshops and specific trainings) of at least 200 young people with knowledge and tools that will enable them to participate in the youth local policy cycle more actively. The modules directed at this group will among others include:
     1. Youth participation, active citizenship, advocacy, simple concepts/idea development and pitching, and personal/youth activities/project cycle management. These will be substantiated with working together with the youth leaders, civil servants, and civil societies in 1.1. above to facilitate the 200 young people to join the city halls discussions, as well as initiate activities of their choice to further build their skills and confidence.

**Objective 2** is: To foster the establishment of sustainable forms of cooperation between young people, local youth organisations and local authorities for enabling youth inclusive policy dialogue and formulation.

To reach this objective we will deliver the following outputs:

2.1. Working with the civil servants in the different municipalities, mobilize the 16 youth leaders into local youth councils as platforms for structured dialogue about youth policies and other youth issues between the local government and young people for their inputs. Additionally, young people will be involved in planning youth-related activities, as well as ensure and monitor youth participation in decision-making process on the local level. The youth councils will hold quarterly meeting to ensure their systematization. It is important to note that youth councils are not a formal structure in the municipalities yet, and thus this project will contribute to their formalization in these municipalities and form an inspiration to others.

2.2. To introduce and contribute to development of sustainable intersectoral cooperation between local government, local civil society organisations and young people, through repeated dialogue meetings about youth policy and other arising youth issues.

**Objective 3** is: Based on the National Youth Policy Document and the lessons learned in this project, design a local youth policy focused guide and an action plan for implementing this (localizing and contextualizing), and advocate for its approval and uptake.

To reach this objective we will deliver the following outputs:

* 1. Introduce and establish the practice of evidence-based approach to youth policy and policy strategy-development and implementation through stakeholder hands-on grounding and tailoring (localizing and contextualizing) of the national youth policy. This will be done through three main processes:
* Conduct a needs assessment for the youth in the target municipalities to enable the process of evidence-based strategic planning of youth projects and services.
* And once the needs are identified engage the different stakeholders (youths, civil servants, youth leaders, civil society representatives) in participatory discussion of the results of the needs identified above, prioritizing them, and development of specific municipal youth policy documents and the action plans. This will be through structured workshops and dialogue meetings.
* Enabling youth leaders (and other young people) to carry out annual need assessment for the youth (before the annual municipal budget planning sessions), participate in and carry out the monitoring of implementation of municipal youth policy document and the action plan in the target municipalities. The skills required here come from 1.1. & 1.2 above.
  1. Lobbying and advocating for the approval of the local municipalities’ youth policy documents and action plans above. At this stage this will be a pro forma process as we would have built a good relationship and evidenced to the departments of youth policies the need for this. Moreover, they will be part and parcel of the process to this level, and thus will be our mouthpiece in lobbying and getting other departments on board the localized youth policy documents. This will be done through quarterly participatory lobby meetings – three (3) per municipality, attracting at least 20 participants from various departments and key stakeholders. A key result a result for both 3.1 and 3.2 is that young people in target municipalities will get an access to evidence-based youth opportunities, along with the tools needed to champion this.
* What is the strategy of the intervention? Describe the planned activities and how these will lead to the desired outputs and achievement of the objectives.

The strategy of our project is founded on three strong aspects, namely.

1. Mobilizing and capacitating/building critical skills required in the process of youth policy.

As we have earlier pointed out, the young people in the target municipalities have high enthusiasm to be part of policy processes but are rarely mobilized to these, coupled with their low awareness of their enabling citizen rights and duties. So, the first important component of the strategy of this project is to mobilize young people and related policy workers to the project through avenues availed by the context. Here among others, we will recruit 16 youth leaders (young people already designated as youth leaders), who will work as our conduit to other young people whose mandate they carry. These will on the longer term mobilize at least 200 other young people from across the four municipalities of the project. We will mobilize the central civil servants from the municipal youth departments, as well as support the entire process with civil society representatives related to youth issues. This will form a specific critical mass and important task force to give this project momentum from the start.

The mobilization will be followed by a series of specific trainings and workshops that are aimed at delivering knowledge, tools and methodologies required for the key stakeholders above to engage with the policy processes they will embark on. Among others, these will include:

* Introduction to youth policy, needs assessment, identification of actors and communication plans.
* Training Course – Development of strategy, setting priorities and municipal youth policy.
* Training Course – Implementation of the strategy, monitoring, and evaluation.
* The Cycle of workshops for young people on youth participation, active citizenship, advocacy, concept development and project cycle management.

1. Creating spaces for key youth policy stakeholders to interact and get familiar with working together on forming/developing youth policy.

Another key ingredient in the process of triggering responsive youth policy development in a context where this has been limited by policy managers on the top being blind to relevant stakeholders of the policies created, is to bring these different stakeholders to work together and naturalizing/routinizing this as a major part of the process. Therefore, it is a part of our strategy that:

* We have already secured and signed a joint memorandum of cooperation between the Academy for Peace and Development and other similar local governments to those of our target municipalities, which gives us good profile to get into the municipalities for this project.
* We will run a framework where the identified youth leaders, civil servants, and civil society representatives work closely together through a combination of joint trainings, dialogue workshops and meetings, strategy and planning sessions, working sessions, as wells as public discussions and debates, all aimed at naturalizing these pertinent stakeholders working together.
* The plan of forming the 16 youth leaders and other interest young people into youth councils (a structure that does not exists formally as per now) is to give them more mandate to become custodians of youth policy, while at the same time offering the local governments an additional supportive unit that will act as a bridge between the civil servants and the young people.
* We include to the key stakeholders a cohort of civil society representatives because we know that in the absence of functional government structures in relation to mobilizing, encouraging, and mentoring of youngsters the CSOs always fill this void. Moreover, the CSOs also play a watchdog as well as mediating role between the duty bearers (government) and rights holders (citizens), making them a relevant glue towards our mission with this project.
* We will also mobilize at least 200 other youths to join into the different dialogues and debates to give them hands on experiences interfacing with the other policy stakeholders.

1. Facilitating hands on practice in the processes of creating youth policy, as well as delivering a specific youth policy guide/document for each municipality as a product to this process.

The final part of our strategy basically aligns with the saying that “practice makes perfect”. So, we will create avenues for the stakeholders of the project to engage in actions that lead into join youth policy outcomes as a way of confirming the relevance and possibility of an inclusive and participatory youth policy model. These hands-on actions will among many include:

* That young people carry out needs assessments in target municipalities to gather inputs from youths. These will then be compiled into reports for discussion and prioritizing into action points.
* The action points compiled above are then taken up to public discussion where stakeholders and the public give inputs, that will then be compiled into a youth policy document.
* The key stakeholders will then lobby for the approval of the youth policy document and related action plan for implementing this from the city councils of target municipalities.

It is worth noting that the intervention will be based on already existing, approved methodology of youth policy development on municipal level that has only lacked the involvement that we are piloting. The methodology is designed by highly qualified experts that will play mentors and guides to this project. These are also well respected within the local governments, giving the project more validity and acceptability.

We believe that our project will give the region access to highly qualified youth policy engagement on municipal level and the youth policy document designed will give a good framework for practicing this.

* What are the plans for systematising experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention?

To systematize this project’s experiences along the way we will do/have planned the following:

* We will facilitate our local partner to have a fully engaged project coordinator, project assistant, and support staff. Civil Connections will also have an assigned project coordinator to do the same in Denmark. This should stabilize the project implementation and continuous learning.
* Civil Connections and APD will hold timely meetings – both physical and virtual, to follow up on the project, gather learnings, readjust based on learning, and concretize the project model.
* APD shall compile reports about the project that will be utilized by the partnership to follow the project. First, APD will be encouraged to compile short monthly reports on the activities carried out during that month. These will then be compiled into a quarterly report that will be shared with Civil Connections and followed up by virtual meetings to deliberate, learn, plan further, harvest results.
* Both partners will keep a close contact both on email and voice connection through messenger, Zoom, Teams, or WhatsApp, to ensure that anything arising is taken up in good time.

Intervention-related information work in Denmark

* The purpose of the information work.
* Give Danish public access to what is happening in Georgia & engaging them in our work.
* Utilize this information for lobby and advocacy towards policy support for development work.
* The target groups of the information work.
* Our members and followers through online channels and our Annual General Assembly
* To other CSOs present in Georgia, and the Danish public through public workshops.
* The means of communication to be used (social media, printed matter, theatre, events, or the like).
* Public workshops & events, Social media, Our website, and Printed content (brochures & rollups).

1. Supplementary financing - NA

1. National Youth Survey

   <https://www.unicef.org/georgia/reports/national-youth-survey> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Georgian Law on Self Government defines a municipality as a settlement or a unity of settlements with defined boundaries, administrative center, as well as representative and executive bodies of government, and possesses their own assets, budget, and income. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Youth Policy Implementation at the Local Level, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)