

## **Introducing the Model of Community Mobilization around Environmental Issues in Georgia 2010-2012**

From November 1, 2010 The International Institute for Education Policy, Planning and Management (EPPM) starts the implementation of the project “Introducing the Model of Community Mobilization around Environmental Issues in Georgia” financed by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

### **Project goals and objectives**

The project goal is to support the introduction of the mechanisms of mobilization and awareness-raising of public and local communities around sustainable use of natural resources in the environmental field and facilitate practical sustainability of the developed mechanisms. The project will be implemented in 10 regions of Georgia and envisages increasing the role of boards of trustees of 10 schools from the selected regions, as a unit for community connection in the mobilization of local communities, towards addressing important environmental issues. The project also envisages: development of a study course in environmental issues and its inclusion in the national curriculum; formation of the format of awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns around environmental issues.

### **Project Partners**

The partners of EPPM in the project implementation are the Centre for Training and Consultancy (CTC) and the Newspaper “24 Saati”.

### **Project location and period**

The project will be implemented in 10 regions of Georgia and last during 24 months from 1 November 2010 to 1 November 2012.

### **Project target groups**

Direct target group of the project are up to 120 representatives of school boards and school communities (students (up to 1000), their parents (up to 1800), teachers (up to 500)) of 10 public schools located in 10 regions of Georgia. The target group includes also the representatives of the community and the governance authorities of the selected regions (total up to 300).

### **Project summary**

Project activities can be grouped into four functional areas:

- a. **Analytical activities** - envisages the development of the scheme of community mobilization model; development of recommendations and manual for practical application of the model. The manual will be later used by partner communities involved in the project, as well as other schools and local communities (The mentioned activities will mainly be implemented by EPPM).
- b. **Development of the study course on environmental issues** - envisages the development by the team of experts of a study course in environmental issues, clean, cost-effective technologies and practice, to be entered as a separate subject in the national curriculum. The development of training modules for teachers and the professional development courses for subject-matter instruction (the mentioned activity will be carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia).
- c. **Development of the skills of boards of trustees of partner schools in community mobilization around environmental issues** - envisages the development and implementation of training modules for boards of trustees around the tools of identification and addressing environmental issues. Practical piloting and testing of the community mobilization model. Acquiring and application of advocacy skills (EPPM will carry out this component in close cooperation with partner organizations and schools).
- d. **Holding mobilization, advocacy and awareness raising campaigns** - trained boards of trustees will lead community mobilization campaigns within their communities around the pre-selected topics. They will carry out lobbying for introducing the developed education course in the national curriculum. Moreover, active awareness raising campaigns will be carried out with the involvement of partner and local media to publicize the results obtained under the project and the ways of addressing specific problems.

The activities are divided into four main stages. The first stage is focused on preparatory activities, selection of partner schools and establishing the network. Also, disseminating information about the project. The second stage is focused on the training of boards of trustees within the schools for them to perform the linking function in community mobilization. This function will also be realized in practice. During the third stage it is envisaged to develop a study course in environmental issues and including it into the national curriculum. The fourth stage of the project envisages compilation and publicizing

the experience and specific products produced under the project, holding active awareness raising campaign to reach wider public.