

Public Participation in Agricultural Activities in Georgia

TF PPDM Aarhus Convention

12-13 December 2024

Geneva





Main legislation

Environmental Assessment Code /2017/
public participation in EIA & SEA

**GoG Resolution N629 on the Approval of the Procedure for the
Development, Monitoring and Evaluation of Policy Documents /2019/**
public consultations

Law of Georgia on Agriculture and Rural Development /2024/
cooperation format with the civil society

Civic Committee /2021/

Aarhus Convention /2001/



Public participation / consultation components

Environmental Assessment Code

EIA on activities - *responsible institution MEPA*

Annex I - construction and operation of different types of **farms**

Annex II – **agriculture** sector

SEA on strategic document – 11 sectors include **agriculture**

responsible institutions – MEPA & Ministry responsible for health

GoG Resolution N629

Public consultation on policy document

responsible institutions – relevant public authorities

Civic Committee

MoU – Interagency Coordination Council & civil sector

Law of Georgia on Agriculture and Rural Development

*Creation of effective **cooperation format with civil society***

PP - Environmental Assessment Code



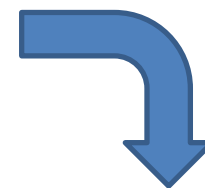
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

EIA / SEA

Activity	Screening	Scoping	EIA / SEA reports
Publish of information	X / X	X / X	X / X
Access to documents	X / X	X / X	X / X
Submission of comments	7 / 7 days	15 / 15 days	40 / 40 days
Public hearing	- / -	X / -	X / X
Publish decision	X / X	X / X	X / X

Policy documents' Development, Monitoring & Evaluation rules

- **Identification** of all interested parties / stakeholders
- Provision of necessary **information** at early stage & by all convenient ways
- Public **consultation** in person or electronically
- Preparation of **report**, including:
 - ✓ Considered comments
 - ✓ Non-considered comments with arguments
- **Inclusion of report** in the documentation for approval



*Agriculture and Rural Development **Strategy** /2021-2027/ and Its **Action Plan***

/2024-2027/

*Georgia's **Strategy** for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture & Its **Action Plan***

/2024-2028/



PP - Civic Committee

Main goal - strengthen cooperation with the civil sector, promote good planning, implementation of agricultural & rural development policies according to European practices

- 37 civil society organizations & NGOs – 2 meetings annually
- **Considers** implementation of agricultural strategies & state projects
- Makes **recommendations**

*Civic Committee **comments / recommendations were considered in:***

- ✓ Agriculture and Rural Development **Strategy /2021-2027/** & its **Action Plan /2024-2027/**
- ✓ Georgia's **Strategy** for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture & its **Action Plan /2024-2028/**



Public Participation - main aspects

Everyone can participate

Participation at the **early stage**

Timely and effective means to **access to information**

Possibility to **check all information** timely and free of charge

Reasonable time for **participation**

Possibility to **express opinion** – written & oral

Consideration of public **comments**

Receive information on **decision** immediately

Receive **reasons for decision**



Main challenges & Needs

Challenges

- Lack of specific **knowledge**
- Lack of **awareness**
- Lack of **interest** to participate

Needs

- Demonstration of consideration of the **public input**
- Clear **evidence of benefit** of participation to people's lives

Awareness raising, appropriate knowledge & education



EIEC - meet challenges / effective participation



Environmental and Agricultural Education in School /8 topics / since 2020

Primary school teachers – 6586 trained / Secondary school teachers - 2025



Agroschool for youth / 15-17 years / since 2022 /

Online trainings & Field trips / topics 13+ / 78 participants/



Lectures / Seminars / Info-tours

Lectures & Seminars – 5 topics / Info-tours on 3 directions



Agroscholarship programmes for students

6 Universities & 14 Colleagues / topics 6+ / 30+ students yearly



Vocational training/retraining programme since 2022

Forest Inventory & Taxation / Climate Smart Agriculture – will start



Agricultural trainings since 2019

11 topics / beneficiaries 4000+ / 5 target groups, include **Penitentiary institutions**



National Agricultural Olympiad since 2021 / 1200 participants annually

6 topics / 4 target groups



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