

GAGAUZIA DIALOGUE

Finding joint solutions to common issues



Executive Committee approves strategic programmes on education and tourism

On December 16, 2021, the Executive Committee of Gagauzia approved the Strategic Programme for Development of the Education Sector in ATU Gagauzia 2021-2030 and the Strategic Tourism Development Programme 2025.

„These two strategic programmes are very important for the autonomy development. I am confident that these policies will have a positive impact in the future education development, as well as tourism development”, stated the Governor of ATU Gagauzia, Irina Vlah, who chaired the meeting.

The policy documents were elaborated by relevant departments of the Executive Committee of Gagauzia with CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation expert support, and international expertise in autonomy, policymaking, and good governance provided by Eurac Research, South Tyrol, Italy. CMI also provided assistance in the elaboration of the long-term programme and action plan in the culture field.

The policies establish long-term goals and actions for the development of the education, tourism and culture fields in the autonomy and lay the foundation for the clarification of competencies in these areas between the centre and the autonomy.

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POLICY DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE NEWS

Gagauz authorities contribute to the development of the autonomy with policies in education, tourism and culture



Since 2019, CMI has been supporting the Gagauz authorities in the policy development process by providing international advice and expertise. Within the “Gagauzia Dialogue” project, a Policy Development Task Force (PDTF) was created for defining the autonomy’s strategic vision in three spheres: Education, Tourism and Culture. The PDTF is made up of independent experts from Chisinau and Comrat and representatives of the Executive Committee and People Assembly of Gagauzia.

As a result, three policy documents were elaborated: Strategic Programme for Development of Education Sector in ATU Gagauzia 2021-2030, Strategic Tourism Development Programme 2025 and Strategic Programme for Development of Culture Sector in ATU Gagauzia 2022-2030.

The education policy document identifies the main challenges within the education system in Gagauzia and proposes effective solutions for overcoming them. It focuses on priorities such as the improvement of policy and institutional framework to enhance cooperation and dialogue within the autonomy and with national authorities, promotion of a multilingual education system, ensuring access and quality education and other.

The Strategic Tourism Development Programme emphasises how to foster tourism development in Gagauzia. Hence, it focuses on three key

strategic directions: strengthening the legal framework, fostering institutional capacities, and product development and promotion at the national and international level. The policy document was developed in line with the National Tourism Programme 2025.

The Culture policy document highlights the priorities such as preservation and promotion of Gagauz language, promotion of cultural diversity, ensuring protection and promotion of cultural heritage, etc. Over the upcoming months, the policy document will be published for public consultations and then submitted for approval to the autonomy’s Executive Committee.

In order to ensure an inclusive and participatory process, each program was consulted with a wide and diverse range of actors⁶ whose contribution was included in the programmes. Moreover, during the policy development process the PDTF benefited of expert support from Eurac Research, who presented best international practices in policy making.

By implementing the policy documents, the autonomy expects to contribute to a better future for the younger generation, economic growth, and the sustainable development of Gagauzia.

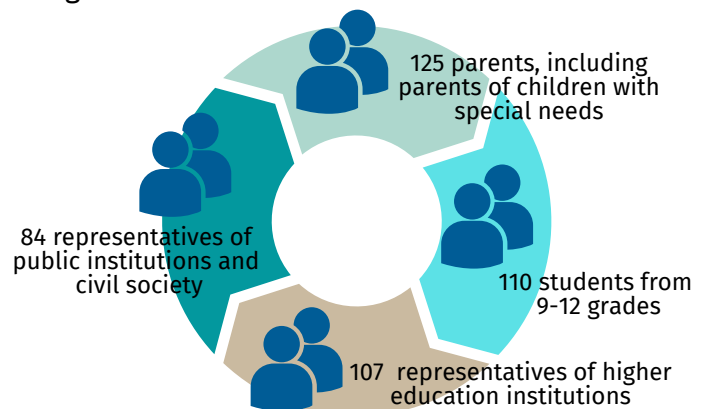
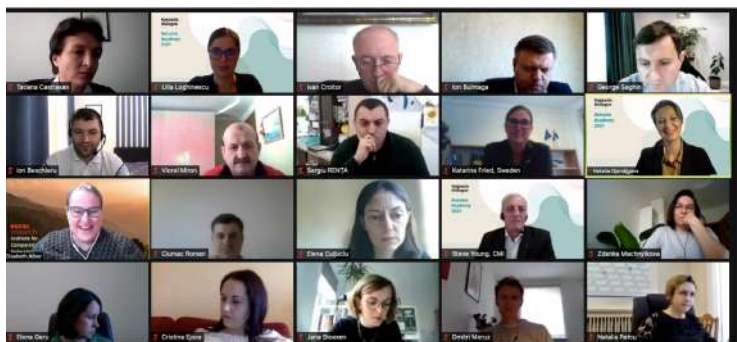


Fig. Example of the consultative process for education

"GAGAUZIA DIALOGUE" NEWS

Autumn Academy provides new insights on autonomies and decentralisation



On November 11 -13, 2021, the Autumn Academy “Decentralised governance and autonomies” was organised in an online format by the CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation in partnership with Moldova State University, Comrat State University, and Eurac Research, Italy. The event was attended by over 40 professionals from public institutions, academia, experts, journalists, and civil society representatives.

During the Academy, participants had the opportunity to learn about decentralised governance and centre-autonomy relations, international comparative cases of decentralised policymaking, and reflect on lessons learned from the case of South Tyrol, Italy. Moreover, group work provided networking opportunities for the participants, while they exchanged views and reflected on the local context from the perspective of international practice.

During the Academy, the experts from Eurac Research discussed South Tyrols’ experience in policymaking in education, tourism, and culture development and presented international best practices with a focus on the South Tyrol Autonomy.

At the end, participants shared their first-hand impressions of the event, expressing gratitude for the intense and extremely informative programme, and also reflecting on the application of the acquired knowledge in their professional lives.

“The Academy helped me to understand that decentralisation should be encouraged and pursued, as the examples from European practice show that effective decentralisation can contribute to economic development and country prosperity”.

The first Autumn Academy was held in 2019 and attended by over 40 participants from all over the country, who also learned about autonomy arrangements, minority rights, and decentralisation trends in European states.



“The Academy’s 3 days served as a good platform for all of us to discuss different perspectives and experiences and reflect on all the aspects that could further improve the power-sharing between the center and various regions”, stated H.E., Ambassador of Sweden to the Republic of Moldova, Katarina Fried.



“The Autumn Academy enriched the knowledge on autonomies and decentralisation. Also, it broadened understanding on how an autonomy can function efficiently within the Republic of Moldova”, affirmed Steve Young, CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation Country Manager.

"GAGAUZIA DIALOGUE" NEWS

Duplex TV shows and interviews organised within the "Gagauzia Dialogue" communication campaign



"My dream and the dream of all my colleagues is that children and teachers go to school with pleasure".

Head of the Gagauz General Education Department,
Natalia Cristeva



"Gagauzia attracts tourists from all over the world through its places, history, culture and traditions".

Head of Gagauz Economic Development and Tourism Department,
Natalia Ciuvailiskaya



"I am deeply convinced that cultural heritage is the most important wealth of any people".

Head of Gagauz General Culture Department,
Marina Semenova

"Gagauzia Dialogue" continued implementation of its communication campaign to raise awareness about dialogue between Chisinau and Comrat.

Two duplex TV shows from two public studios, Moldova 1 and Gagauz Regional Television (GRT) were organised. The first TV show discussed Multilingual education in Moldova and successes in this sphere in Gagauzia. Also, the experts from Chisinau and Comrat analysed the state of linguistic diversity in Moldova and outlined the future tracks for Moldova education sector development.

The second TV show was dedicated to Gagauzia Tourism development. Guests of the tele-duplex discussed the needs and priorities of the region and remarked that recently Gagauzia has become an attractive tourist destination for both Moldovans and foreign tourists.

Invitees of both TV shows agreed that the cooperation and dialogue between the Centre and Autonomy were crucial for better functioning of the region, as well as for the benefit of the Gagauz people and Moldova as a whole.

Deeper discussions about the Gagauz education system, tourism and culture sectors were held within three interviews organised with the representatives of the Executive Committee of Gagauzia. They discussed the challenges in the sectors but also the efforts the autonomy's authorities pay to make Gagauzia a prosperous region for its citizens.

To discover the stories of talented Gagauz people such as Lidya Todieva, George Topal and get acquainted with some fascinating locations such as Beshalma's museum, we invite you to navigate through People&Places section on www.gagauziadialogue.md.

Gagauzia Dialogue



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"Supporting Inclusive Dialogue and Strengthening Capacities for a Better Functioning Gagauz Autonomy in Moldova" or 'Gagauzia Dialogue' is a three-year project bringing together representatives of the government, legislators, experts and other interested parties from Chisinau, Comrat and across Moldova to find joint solutions to common issues related to the Gagauzia autonomy.

The project runs from 2019-2021, facilitated by CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation and funded by Sweden.

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