ABOUT US

Established in 1998, the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies is an independent, non-profit policy think tank dedicated to helping improve public policy decision-making in Georgia through research and analysis, training of policymakers and policy analysts, and public education about the strategic issues, both domestic and international, facing Georgia and the Caucasus in the 21st century.

DONORS AND PARTNERS IN 2019

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
U.S. Department of State
British Embassy Tbilisi  GGF
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)
German Marshall Fund (GMF)
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
Estonia Development Cooperation (MFA Estonia)
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)
European Union (EU)

This publication is made possible by the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The contents are the responsibility of the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (Rondeli Foundation) and do not necessarily represent the views of Sida.
European and Euro-Atlantic integration, national security, economic development, peacebuilding, radicalization and national integration are among the themes included in practically all of the activities and projects undertaken by the Foundation throughout the past years as well as in 2019.

Within this year, the Rondeli Foundation has further enlarged its target audiences and the geographic coverage of its activities. In addition to traditional targets such as public servants, the media and civil society representatives, we have extended our outreach to encompass and engage with youth groups and young political party staffers from vulnerable communities, the Georgian Orthodox Church and other religious communities, ethnic minorities and women’s groups from throughout the regions of Georgia.

The Rondeli Foundation is proud to present an important new product which we developed this year in the form of the Russian Monitor which is a group of projects dedicated to the monitoring and understanding of modern Russia’s foreign strategy. The Foundation believes that it is important to closely follow Russia’s military, diplomatic, information and other activities beyond its borders that have an impact on its neighbors, on the West and on the global international system. The Russia Monitor is our contribution to the broader international effort to understand the Kremlin’s foreign strategy and hopefully contributing to the generation of proactive approaches on how to deal with it.

The Rondeli Foundation’s achievements and accomplishments for 2019 are presented in this report. We are grateful to our donors and partners for their trust and support in the pursuit of our joint goal for the benefit of a stable, democratic and prosperous Georgia, part of the European family.
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

Through capacity building programs the Rondeli Foundation aims to improve good governance practices and introduce policy-based decision-making. In order to stimulate a broader understanding of the public policy agenda and cultivate a culture of strategic thinking, the Foundation employs a cross sectoral and cross agency approach by targeting high and mid-level public servants, political party staffers, the Georgian Orthodox Church (GOC) and other religious leaders, youth, media, civil society, ethnic and religious minority communities.

Capacity Building of the Georgian Leadership Community (CBGL)

CBGL, one of the competitive programs supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), aims to address the existing governance challenges and improve the policy-making process by engaging directly with middle level public servants in practical exercises in policy development and negotiation skills. The seven-month-long training program involves a study tour to Tallinn, Estonia which is organized in partnership with the Estonian School of Diplomacy (ESD) and aims to enhance participant knowledge about EU policy related topics. Moreover, the public servants under the supervision of mentors individually develop a policy document focusing on problematic issues at their respective agencies.

The program was an excellent chance for me to develop professionally since it is designed to enhance the capacity of civil servants by teaching the principles of European public administration and good governance. I feel that my competence in policy development has been enhanced immeasurably. More importantly, I’ve made new contacts and friends with peers from other agencies.

Lili Lezhava, Senior Specialist, Policy Planning and Coordination Department, Administration of the Government of Georgia
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

National Security and Public Policy Program

The Foundation’s flagship program, running since 2001 with the support of the US Embassy, aims at the capacity building of the national security community by targeting policy analysts from defence and security agencies and diplomats as well as civil society representatives and journalists. The program focuses on the enhancement of the skills and the knowledge necessary to participate in the national security policy process and shape its future. The courses are delivered by Georgian and U.S. instructors.

This program was a unique discovery as it shaped the future aspirations of my civilian life. My views on national security systems and public policies enriched and expanded. The Rondeli Foundation inspired me to continue my civic education and immediately after completing the course, I passed the exams for the Master’s program at the International Black Sea University in IR and Politics. I am a proud graduate of GFSIS as this organization has become part of my success story.

Beka Ambroladze, Commander of the Command and Staff Training Centre at the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre, Defence Forces of Georgia

Nino Javakhadze, program graduate of the class of 2008-2009, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia (2017 - June 2020) and the Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development (2016-2017).
Training on Modern Human Resources Management

As a part of the strengthening of Georgian institutions, the Foundation has continued its work to advance the professional development of Human Resource (HR) specialists in public institutions. Topics covered by Swedish consultants included the Swedish experience of modern HRM and areas of possible application in Georgia, the development of HRM in the Georgian civil service, performance appraisal and the use of human resource indicators as a tool for attracting and motivating public servants as well as organizational culture and other related issues.

I’ve been involved in the HR training program since 2017. Overall, the seminars in Tbilisi and the study visit to Stockholm have contributed to my professional development leading to my promotion to a managerial position. Moreover, I’ve gained and maintained contacts with Swedish experts and trainers who helped me get involved in the internship program at the Swedish Social Insurance Agency and Wise Group AB.

Tamta Chrikishvili, Head of the Civilian Personnel Policy Section at the Ministry of Defence of Georgia
Interreligious Group Visit to Brussels

The Rondeli Foundation in partnership with the European Parliament organized a study visit to Brussels for representatives of the Georgian Orthodox Church and other religious denominations. It was for the first time in Georgian history that a delegation such as this had the opportunity to meet with high-ranking officials at NATO headquarters, the European Parliament and the European Commission. The visit enabled the participants to raise the issues of Georgia’s occupied regions and express their support for Georgia’s European integration.

We will not adapt to the occupation of our territories by Russia. We will continue a peaceful fight. We hope that our European and American partners will help us in our effort. Russia does not want to see a strong Georgia. The majority of Georgians consider themselves Europeans and we are striving towards Europe and not the occupier. I urge our European friends not to forget mentioning Georgia while talking about Ukraine!

Metropolitan Bishop Jakob of Bodbe addressing the European Parliament

Conference on the Role of Churches and Religious Communities in the Process of Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, the European Parliament, November 2019
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

The Rondeli Foundation targets the non-inclusive governance and the informational vacuum existing in Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli which translates into the alienation of the ethnic Azerbaijani and Armenian communities and their vulnerability to anti-Western propaganda and radicalization. Capacity building activities are carried out with the aim to promote good governance practices in the regions and the inclusion of minorities in political processes.

National Minorities in Political Processes – Engagement for a Better Future

Representatives of the political party youth wing from 15 political parties and movements deepened their knowledge in ethnic policies, public policy analysis, policy paper crafting, legal framework and international guiding principles. More importantly, the participants developed policy documents and policy briefs reflecting the problems faced by national minorities in the regions of Georgia. The project is implemented with the support and active participation of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM).

Youth from Samtske-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli at the Georgian Parliament, Study Visit, Tbilisi, November 2019

Meeting of Ethnic Minority Representatives and Political Parties, Tbilisi, December 2019

Each meeting, lecture and training in Javakheti was extremely informative and helpful for the participants. Besides the activities organized by the Rondeli Foundation, its staff and senior fellows have been always out there to help us in professional development. The process of developing policy briefs is also worth pointing out. This project is a huge step forward on the path of our career development. I would highly recommend it to my peers.

Rima Marangozyan, Project Participant
Supporting Participatory and Inclusive Governance in Mountainous Guria and Adjara

Meetings and roundtables, held on a regular basis, aimed at bringing together representatives of the central government and local key stakeholders from mountainous Guria and Zoti for discussions.

As a result of improved communication and increased knowledge of local problems, GEL seven million were allocated by the central government to build a new school and kindergarten in the village of Nasakirali.
WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

Gender is a major cross-cutting theme which the Foundation remains committed to promoting in all of its activities. Throughout the year, the Rondeli Foundation carried out a number of activities aimed at women’s economic and political empowerment. The series of training sessions, seminars, roundtable discussions and study tours foster women’s engagement in the decision-making process, empower them economically and raise their awareness on policy-making in general.

Enhancing the Capacity of Women Entrepreneurs

About 50 women entrepreneurs from mountainous Adjara, Javakheti and the Pankisi Gorge increased their capacity in rural tourism development through the project implemented in partnership with the Jaan Tonisson Institute (Estonia) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia.

In July the participants visited Estonia where they met with the representatives of the Ministry of Rural Affairs of Estonia, the NGO Rural Tourism and the Mayor of Haapsalu. The group travelled to tourist farms in the regions to gain on-the-ground experience from their Estonian counterparts.

Seminar on developing rural business in Pankisi, October 2019

Seminar on developing rural business in Pankisi, October 2019

The most useful part of the project for me was the visit to Estonia. It was something like an eye-opener for me. I will always remember how we were greeted at the Vaskna Farm; the hostess met us with a crown of flowers….. Now I am building a wine cellar which I want to do in the same way as I saw in Estonia at one of the farms I visited. When my guests come, they will participate in various activities so they can better understand our customs and traditions.

Izolda Surmanidze, Skhalta Guest House Owner from Khulo

Seminar on developing rural business in Pankisi, October 2019
Women’s Economic Empowerment

Women’s economic empowerment has been one of the main components of the Foundation’s activities. Experience-sharing meetings with successful women entrepreneurs from vulnerable and economically deprived regions serving as role models have become one of the most engaging events for women participants from ethnic and religious minority communities.

Promoting Gender Policy Issues

The topics on gender mainstreaming, women’s political participation and gender sensitive policy analysis are part of the training programs of all ongoing projects at the Rondeli Foundation.

Aleksandre Kvakhadze’s research sheds light on the issue of women participants from Georgia in the Syrian conflict. The research touches upon the physiological aspects of the transformation of gender roles in the region, domestic violence, the radicalization of women and the functional role of Caucasian female foreign fighters in the Syrian and Iraqi conflicts.
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Rondeli foundation places special emphasis on increasing the awareness of youth on the state and nation building processes as well as on the values consistent with a civic, democratic and modern state. Particularly, the Foundation targets the youth in the minority settled regions in order to advance their development opportunities and become full fledged citizens.

Youth Journal – MY WORLD

My World is the only Georgian youth quarterly magazine and has been published with the support of the U.S. Embassy since 2013. The overall goal of the publication is to increase the resilience of Georgian teenagers in the face of anti-Western propaganda and radicalization and instead focus their interest on the values that support the development of an inclusive, tolerant and democratic society and foster their integration into the Georgian state.

Youth Discussion Clubs are organized throughout the Georgian regions, including in ethnic and religious minority communities. Discussions cover the issues of foreign policy, democracy, civics, EU/NATO integration and developments in the neighbourhood, etc.
Summer Camps at the Rugby Base in Aspindza and the Gori National Defence Academy

Over 90 teenagers took part in the summer camps - My World organized by the Rondeli Foundation at the National Defence Academy in Gori and at the rugby base in Aspindza. The summer camps gave teenagers from different regions of Georgia (Samegrelo, Kartli, Adjara and Guria) the possibility to become familiar about how the Georgian state operates, issues of foreign and domestic policies, the basis and principles of democracy and free societies. Participants also were able to interact, establish friendships and become part of one big network of likeminded individuals.
European and Euro-Atlantic integration is one of the priority directions of the Rondeli Foundation’s work. The organization assists the Government of Georgia in its European and Euro-Atlantic integration efforts by creating a space for dialogue with the expert community, raising the awareness of different groups and stakeholders on the importance of European integration and countering anti-EU propaganda and hybrid threats.

Responding to Hybrid Threats

The Rondeli Foundation in partnership with the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, Armenia, the WatchDog.MD Community, Moldova and Ukrainian Core has contributed to the implementation of the research project, entitled Building a Common Response to Hybrid Threats – Enhancing Cooperation of EaP CSOs in Policy Solutions Building, funded by the European Union. A study on hybrid threats in the respective countries also includes recommendations for EU and U.S. policy-makers when developing their foreign policy strategies.

Joint Study on Russia’s Strategic Activities

Russia’s Strategic Activities in Eastern Europe – Systematic Analysis and Awareness Raising, supported by the German Marshall Fund, the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, aims to encourage international cooperation and coordination between civil societies and organizations of the Eastern European countries to address the common issues posed by Russian foreign and security policies. The project is implemented in partnership with the Warsaw Institute (Poland), the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” (Ukraine) and the Eastern Europe Study Centre (Lithuania).
Policy oriented research and analysis is one of the important directions of the Rondeli Foundation. The organization responds to the emerging threats and challenges in the country and the region through its publications covering topics of nation-wide importance ranging from national security to international affairs and regional cooperation.

The Foundation’s Regular Publications

**Expert Opinion Papers** — Bi-monthly Expert Opinion Papers serve as supporting analysis and a source of additional information for the political, analytical and intelligence departments of governmental agencies as well as the whole national security community.

**Rondeli Blog** — Covers a wide range of topics from foreign policy, national and regional security to economics and foreign trade.

**Policy Papers** — Elaborated by public servants through the mentorship of the Rondeli Foundation’s experts address the ardent issues of their respective agencies.

**Research** — Research is conducted on important political, social and economic issues which Georgia faces.

**Security Review** — A quarterly analysis of national and regional security issues.

**Georgian Economic Review** — The quarterly online publication aims to inform readers about the ongoing processes within the country’s economy.
The Russia Monitor is a group of the Rondeli Foundation’s projects dedicated to the monitoring and understanding of modern Russia’s foreign strategy. It is important to closely follow Russia’s military, diplomatic, informational and other activities beyond its borders that have impact on its neighbors, on the West and on the global international system. We monitor Russia’s armed forces and military policy, its actions towards the neighbors and its global strategy.

Kremlin Roadmap

The weekly Kremlin Roadmap outlines the policies conducted by Moscow in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region. The Roadmap gives the chronology of the annexation process carried out gradually in both occupied regions of Georgia by the Russian Federation.

Interactive Map of the Russian Military Forces

The regularly updated interactive map of the Russian armed forces shows land manoeuvre and artillery units, air bases, naval bases and air defence units. It also shows Russian military installations of all kinds beyond Russia’s borders.

The map is unique among publicly available products in fully depicting the geographic scope of the Russian armed forces while reflecting the latest changes that are taking place in Russia’s military structure.

Military Digest

The Rondeli Russian Military Digest is a weekly online publication about military activities and developments within the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

Russian Expansion in the Caucasus and Georgia

The project offers the reader a collection of scientific and popular articles covering the Georgian-Russian relations of the XVIII-XX centuries.
Public awareness raising on the ongoing political developments and international affairs through outreach activities is one of the key components of the Foundation’s strategic directions. The conferences, workshops, public discussions, roundtables and guest lectures contribute to qualified policy decision-making and increase civil society’s engagement in the policy development process.

South Caucasus Security Forum - One of the top international security platforms in the South Caucasus bringing together high-level experts and officials from the region and Europe according to tradition was organized in May 2019.

Discussions – organized regularly on the developments in the Middle East and Russia
Supporting international scholars and students has been one of the important dimensions of the Rondeli Foundation’s work since 2001. Throughout these years, more than 240 undergraduates, graduate and doctoral students have carried out internships at the Foundation. In 2019, the Foundation hosted 24 international scholars and students. Some of the most outstanding and interesting research papers written by the intern have been published on the web page.

The months I spent at the Rondeli Foundation were decisive in helping me define my career as an academic and a researcher. I had the independence to steer my own projects but could also count on the support from the Foundation’s fellows for all of my questions and needs. From aiding me with the local context and the scheduling of interviews to invitations to fieldwork and events, my internship supervisor and the whole Foundation team were always helpful, encouraging and attentive. During my internship, I also had the opportunity of exploring wonderful Georgia and making long-lasting friendships with other fellow interns who shared the same research interests as me and came from all around the world.

Clara Ribeiro Assumpcao, Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree

The time I spent at the Rondeli Foundation helped develop my skills in social research. Being an expert-led institute, the experience of being mentored by the leadership is very valuable for young graduates. This helps to motivate people and stimulate their interest in gaining an in-depth, academic understanding of what’s happening in Georgia. I benefitted immensely from this internship, both professionally and personally.

Nikola Xaviereff, University of Sarajevo
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2019
(in GEL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>resizable</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment</td>
<td>773,703</td>
<td>853,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangible Assets</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>773,804</strong></td>
<td><strong>854,467</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>resizable</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>87,874</td>
<td>71,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables from Exchange Transactions</td>
<td>6092</td>
<td>935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance Paid</td>
<td>4,825</td>
<td>30,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes Recoverable and Prepaid</td>
<td>82,505</td>
<td>44,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>1,061,541</td>
<td>171,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,242,837</strong></td>
<td><strong>319,182</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,016,641</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,173,649</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>resizable</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables from Exchange Transaction</td>
<td>2,588</td>
<td>1,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Tax Payable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,588</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,039</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,588</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,039</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>resizable</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Capital</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Surplus and Unused Funds</td>
<td>2,012,553</td>
<td>1,171,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,014,053</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,172,610</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,016,641</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,173,649</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deliotte & Touche has conducted an audit for Rondeli Foundation’s financial statement
Activities  My World distribution area

- Tbilisi
- Tserovani
- Gori
- Khulo Municipality
- Zoti
- Akhalkalaki
- Zugdidi
- Panikisi Gorge
- Mameuli
- Pheria
- Naskirali
- Bolnisi
- Dedoplistskaro
- Racha
- Gali
- Telavi
- Ozurgeti
- Mtskheta-Mtianeti
- Kazbegi
- Dusheti
- Kuraleti
- Tsintsarо
- Kutaisi
- Chuberti
- Chokhatauri
- Akhalgori
- Batumi

CONTACT INFORMATION

3a, Sh. Chitadze Street, Tbilisi, Georgia, 0108
+995 32 473555 | Fax: +995 32 985265
info@gfsis.org; www.gfsis.org

Follow us on

Facebook
Twitter
YouTube
Instagram