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. Most of the Foundation’s staff members are former high-ranking government officials. They possess a unique mixture of government policy expertise and academic achievement.

DONORS AND PARTNERS IN 2017

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
U.S Department of State
USAID/Governing for Growth (G4G) in Georgia
USAID/The Georgia Human and Institutional Capacity Development 2020 Activity (HICD 2020)
NATO Liaison Office (NLO)
European Commission
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)
National Endowment for Democracy

This publication is made possible by the support of 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, the Swedish Government.
The Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, also referred to as the Rondeli Foundation since September 2016, named after its Founder and President (2001-2015), Alexander Rondeli, holds that the only way Georgia to succeed in the changing international environment and against a background of new hybrid threats is through democratic development and strive towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration, translated in good governance practices, professional public service, an educated youth - a basis for the future elite, equal rights, respect for the rule of law and economic development. A democratic, inclusive, stable Georgia would be attractive not only for its neighbors as a safe and secure place for business and transit routes, but would contribute directly to Euro-Atlantic security.

As development, democracy and human rights are both interdependent and mutually reinforcing, these standards and principles crosscut all programming work at the Foundation.

Throughout 2017, the Foundation continued its activities — teaching and training, research and analysis, public outreach and awareness-raising, directed at strengthening the policy-based decision-making culture in the country to promote good governance practices. All the activities encompassed at least one of the following strategic directions pursued by the Foundation – National Security and Public Policy, Peace building and National Integration, European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, or Youth Issues. We aim to convey the Foundation’s achievements and accomplishments in the following report.

We are grateful to our donors and partners for trusting in us and supporting us in the pursuit of our joint goal for the benefit of a stable, democratic and prosperous Georgia, part of a European family.

E. Medvedev
President
VISION OF CHANGE OF THE FOUNDATION

Capacity Building
We aim to provide Georgia’s strategic community both inside and outside the government with various professional enhancement opportunities by drawing on our human resources and by attracting the best expertise available.

Research and Analysis
We bridge the gap between international scholarship and policymaking in Georgia, bringing cutting-edge knowledge to the attention of decision makers and offering scholars interested in the Caucasus region greater insight into public policy issues – with a focus on international best practice.

Public Outreach
We regularly host discussions, public hearings and roundtables to spread the ideas and values that we share among the wider public and fuel nationwide discussion to establish a critical mass that can lead the country towards the Euro-Atlantic community.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The Foundation’s thematic directions target both the opinion crafters and decision makers including public servants, media, ethnic minority communities, journalists, political party staff, academia and youth – all key stakeholders of decision-making process.
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS in 2017

NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC POLICY
Stimulate broader understanding of national security agenda in the country and cultivate culture of strategic thinking and a realization of united inter-agency efforts to address the security challenges that Georgia faces.

PEACEBUILDING
Intensifying intellectual efforts within expert community and civil society to reconsider and rethink attitudes and established vision not only to break ice for finding way out, but prevent development of new conflicts in the country and the region.

NATIONAL INTEGRATION
Addressing the needs faced by ethnic minority communities of Georgia hampering their integration into the Georgian State and engaging them into the policy decision-making process.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Independent policy analysis institutes are a vital component of a normally functioning modern democracy therefore GFSiS team is determined to provide a sustainably institutionalized setting for analysis and providing training opportunities for the sake of improving policy making in the country.

YOUTH ISSUES
Raising future elite of the country and encouraging strategic, critical thinking among them by introducing civic ideas and educating them about the essence of politics and economics.

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
Support to the AA implementation process and create the space of dialogue with the civil society on Euro-Atlantic integration by providing the qualified analysis and recommendations on the policy areas essential for Georgia’s European integration path.
25 public servants from various governmental agencies have successfully completed the program in 2017, while another 26 fellows were selected through highly competitive selection process.

Capacity Building of the Georgian Leadership Community (CBGL) program implemented by GFSIS since 2009 through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) contribution has earned a huge popularity among the public servants. The project aims to improve governance and modernize Georgian public administration by engaging directly with middle level public servants in practical exercises in policy development and negotiation skills. The seven-months-long training courses consisting of 120 hours of instruction contribute to the improved policy based decision making, stimulate broader understanding of public policy agenda and cultivate culture of strategic thinking. Throughout the program public servants individually work on policy documents reflecting issues of national importance under the supervision of mentors. The program involves a study tour to Tallinn, Estonia.

“**My knowledge and skills have been improved by studying with qualified mentors, correctly selected curriculum and Estonian experience, especially in public administration and policymaking process.**”

Sergo Sanikidze, Analyst, Office of the Business Ombudsman of Georgia

Graduation Ceremony of the CBGL Program, October 4, 2017
National Security and Public Policy Program

National Security and Public Policy is another flagship program running since 2001 with the support of the US Embassy. It aims at capacity building of public administration and specifically national security community by targeting policy analysts from defense and security agencies, diplomats as well as civil society representatives and journalists. The program offers 220 hours of instruction in analytical methods and approaches to national security and public policy, focusing on the skills and knowledge necessary to participate in the national security policy process and to shape its future. The courses are delivered by Georgian and U.S. instructors.

28 participants graduated from the program in 2017. Currently 31 fellows are enrolled.

“The program bears huge importance for my career and professionalism as it has strengthened my knowledge and experience about the defence and security issues. Lectures, delivered by the distinguished Georgian and foreign experts, were well organized and goal oriented.”

Luka Mgeladze
Chief Specialist, Human Resource Management and Professional Development Department, Ministry of Defense of Georgia
Seminars on performance appraisal were attended by over 60 HR specialists from various ministries and LEPLs.

Training in Modern Human Resources Management

The Foundation remains committed to improving skills of Georgian Human Resources professionals in public sector institutions in modern Human Resources management practices. In 2017 GFSIS continued a series of seminars conducted by Swedish experts with an aim to share their expertise and introduce the best practices of the Swedish public as well as the private sector HRM. In addition to training sessions network for HR professionals are held at GFSIS premises twice a year. This informal format gives opportunity to HR managers and specialists to discuss themes of common interest and share their experiences. The activities are funded through Sida contribution.

HR Networking Workshop, November 22, 2017

Swedish experts: Hans Norgren and Eva Falck heading the workshop for HR Managers, May 34, 2017
DCFTA Awareness Raising Training

In September of 2017, GFSIS with the financial support of the USAID/Governing for Growth (G4G) in Georgia project has launched a countrywide six-month-long intensive training program on DCFTA awareness raising. The aim of the project was to increase the capacity of the media and civil society representatives on informing the population and monitoring of DCFTA implementation process and to enhance the knowledge and skills of civil society to monitor, communicate, advocate and participate in DCFTA implementation throughout the country. The areas included: Tbilisi, Telavi, Gori, Akhalkalaki, Marneuli, Batumi and Kutaisi.

Over 150 journalists and CSO representatives increased knowledge on DCFTA.

Manual on DCFTA was elaborated and video lectures recorded.

"The training was extremely interesting for numerous reasons. I have got more theoretical knowledge on trade related issues and DCFTA. As a journalist it helped me in preparing precise materials and reporting citizens with accurate information."

Nino Dalakishvili, Journalist, Voice of America
Percentage of each groups trained in 2017

- Public servants: 37%
- Ethnic Minorities: 28%
- Youth Representatives: 20%
- Journalists: 10%
- NGO Representatives: 5%

The number of participants of different programs during 2017

- Journalists
- GoC representatives
- Youth Public Discussions/Quizzes
- Georgian Language Course for Ethnic Minorities
- Seminars for HR Specialists
- Training on DCFTA
- Ataturk leadership Program
- National Security Training
- CBGL
RESEARCH

As part of its effort to strengthen Georgian institutions, GFSIS is actively engaged in conducting researches on important political, social and economic issues that Georgia faces. Two researches were published in 2017:

1. Chronic Poverty and Income Inequality in Georgia
2. Investigating the Attitudes of the Georgian Church on Democracy and Development

ANALYSIS

OPINION PAPERS

Rondeli Foundation has been engaged in publication of Opinion Papers since 2013 with the support of the US Embassy in Georgia. Opinion papers are published twice a month in English and Georgian on military and non-military aspects of national security as well as domestic and foreign policy issues.

Totally 20 issues were published during 2017 and more than 4000 hard copies distributed among civil society and media organizations, governmental institutions, embassies, expert community, etc.
RONDELI BLOG

2018 / 05 / 01
Georgia and the American Strategy

2018 / 04 / 23
Georgian Women in Syrian Conflict and their Future

2018 / 04 / 11
Putin’s Pre-Election Economic Promises: Myth and Reality

View All

RONDELI BLOG

In February 2017 GFSIS has launched the Rondeli Blog on its web site. The blogs are about ongoing nationwide issues having direct or indirect impact on the economy, foreign policy, politics, security of Georgia and the region as whole.

ORAL HISTORY

Other initiative introduced by Rondeli Foundation in 2017 is the Oral History about Formation of Georgian State, which aims to produce a series of video, audio and transcript material depicting the recent history of Georgia dating back from 1991 to 2000. The interviewees are former members of government, diplomats or public figures who are actual witnesses and participants of the events that unfolded in the 90s. The overall objective is to produce intellectual capital for future generation and research material for foreign scholars interested in the country.
Rondeli Foundation has been publishing the only Georgian youth-oriented quarterly magazine My World for the fifth consecutive year with the support of the US Embassy, Tbilisi. The objective of the project is to promote a reading culture and literacy among youth and disseminate civic ideas. The project primarily targets internally displaced children from Abkhazia and South Ossetia as well as religious minorities in the villages of Zoti (mountainous Guria) and Khulo (mountainous Adjara). The hardcopies are distributed across the country to schools, resource centers and libraries.

In parallel to distribution of hard copies, Rondeli Foundation team organizes meetings of youth with authors of articles and GFSIS experts, which enables teenagers to engage in discussion on various interesting topics. Additionally, in order to encourage young readers to read the magazine GFSIS carries out a contest to identify the best readers. Contestants have to take part in quizzes based on the information from the articles in the magazine. The winners are sent to Bukswood summer school to learn English and awarded with laptops.

Awarding the Winners of the Competition “My World”, October 12, 2017
Conferences, workshops, panel discussions, guest lectures, presentations held not only in Tbilisi but in the regions as well have long become integral part of GFSIS activities aiming to raise awareness on the important security and foreign policy issues effecting Georgia and the region. The activities target widest possible audience including representatives of civil society and national agencies, expert community and foreign delegations, students and media. Depending on the topic, sessions intend to alert international community and the GoG on the possible opportunities as well as threats to Georgia’s national security.

**The South Caucasus Security Forum** has become one of the top international security platforms in the South Caucasus, bringing together high-level experts and officials from the region and Europe. Every year decision-makers, academics, experts, state officials, think-tank and media representatives from various countries get together to discuss the most challenging issues in the region. The South Caucasus Security Forum is a well-established major regional event taking place on an annual basis since 2013.

Panel Discussion “25 Years of UK-Georgia Diplomatic Relations: Looking to the Future”, April 13, 2017


International Workshop “Marshall Plan 70 Years After: Vision Still Relevant”, December 6, 2017
My summer internship at the GFSIS came with a great working environment and exposure to key European and International issues and affairs. The Rondeli Foundation works closely with European and other international partners, and made it possible for me to engage in cooperative mechanisms, round-tables, develop and enrich the understanding of current affairs, particularly related to the Caucasus Region.

Anastasiya Kochetkova, The University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017**

*(in Georgian Lari)*

### ASSETS

#### NON-CURRENT ASSETS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>31 December 2017</th>
<th>31 December 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
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<td>935,913</td>
<td>1,039,145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intangible assets</td>
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<td>861</td>
<td>1,240</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1,040,385</strong></td>
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#### CURRENT ASSETS:

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<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th></th>
<th>31 December 2017</th>
<th>31 December 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
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<td>80,737</td>
<td>53,412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivables from exchange transactions</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3,848</td>
<td>9,911</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxes recoverable and prepaid</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>67,718</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>1,508,063</td>
<td>1,355,228</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,592,648</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,486,269</strong></td>
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**TOTAL ASSETS**

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<th>31 December 2017</th>
<th>31 December 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,529,422</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,526,654</strong></td>
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### LIABILITIES

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES:

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<th>31 December 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payables from exchange transactions</td>
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<td>Advances received</td>
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<td>Income tax payable</td>
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<td>6,779</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>16,926</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,222</strong></td>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 December 2017</th>
<th>31 December 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>16,926</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,222</strong></td>
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### NET ASSETS

<table>
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<th>Asset</th>
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<th>31 December 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charter capital</td>
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<td>1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated surplus and unused funds</td>
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<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
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**TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

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*Deloitte & Touche has conducted an audit for the Rondeli Foundation’s financial statements.*
GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE OF THE FOUNDATION’S ACTIVITIES ACROSS GEORGIA

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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