



PREVENTION OF DRUG ADDICTION CONDITION IN GEORGIA

CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENTION OF
ADDICTION



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2017 Y.



THE DRUG SITUATION IN GEORGIA – PREVENTION

Institutional mechanisms for drug misuse prevention are underdeveloped in the country. Implemented activities are not based on evidence, do not meet corresponding international standards (UNODC 2015) and are mainly limited to fragmentary campaigns and public/school lectures. No research has been conducted to evaluate implemented interventions which makes it impossible to make conclusions about their impact and effectiveness.



DRUG USE AMONG THE YOUTH

In 2015, the *National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health* (NCDC) conducted an EU funded nationwide survey to study the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among young people in Georgia by the means of an European school survey method (ESPAD2). ESPAD target group - the 10th grade students were selected from different regions of Georgia and 73% of them constituted the ESPAD target group - the students born in 1999. The two-stage (school and class) proportionate simple random sampling was applied in the study, which resulted in a total of 2,477 fully completed questionnaires later subjected to processing.

Figure 1: Lifetime, Last Year and Last Month Use of Alcohol by Gender (percentage)
(NCDC 2015a)

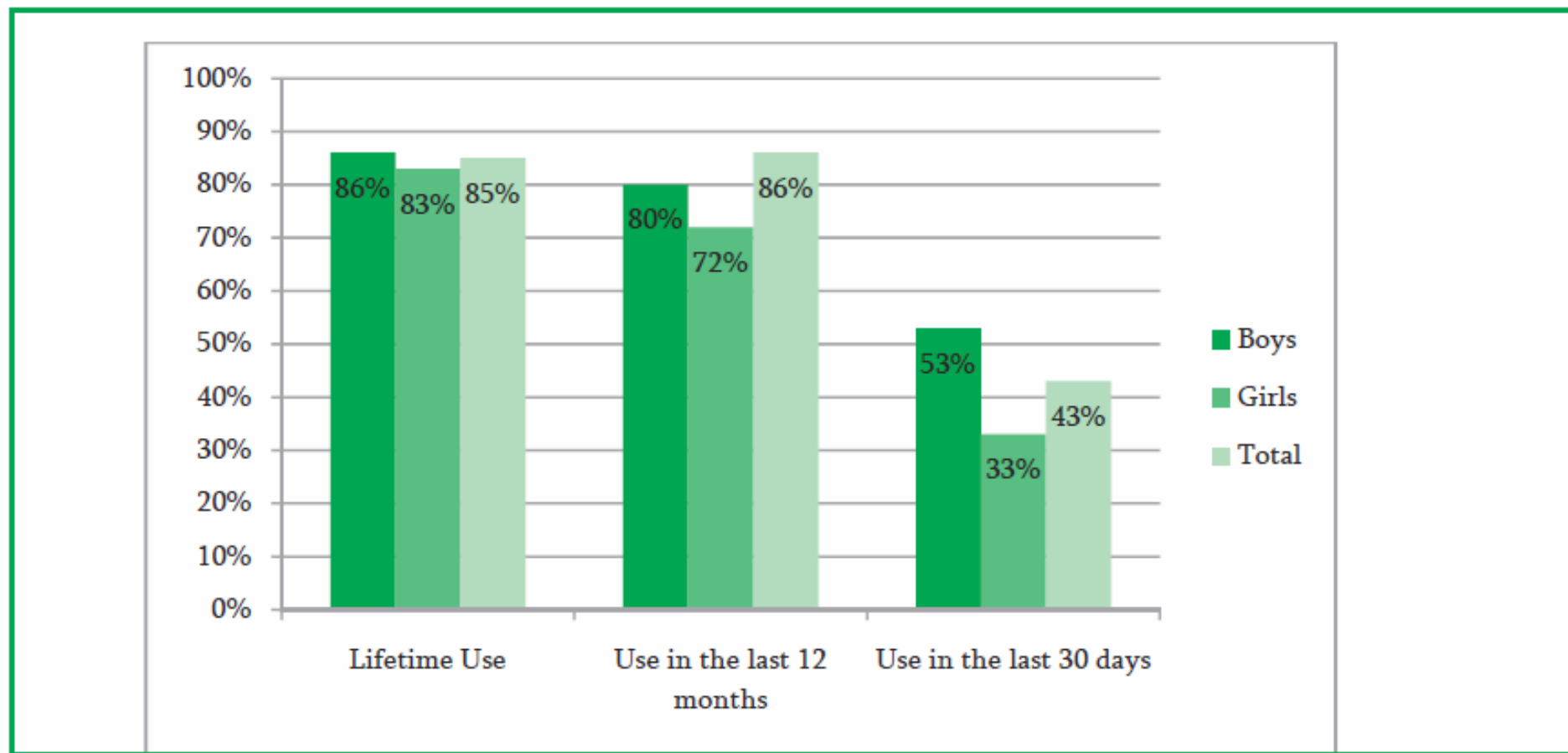


TABLE 1. PROPORTION OF STUDENTS HAVING BEEN DRUNK AND HAVE TRIED VARIOUS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT THE AGE OF 13 OR YOUNGER. PERCENTAGES.

Use of alcoholic beverages/get drunk	Male	Female	ToTal
Beer	67	46	57
Alcopops	38	21	30
Wine	69	59	64
Spirits	43	29	36
Get drunk	29	13	22

FIGURE 2. THE REASONS OF DRINKING DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS

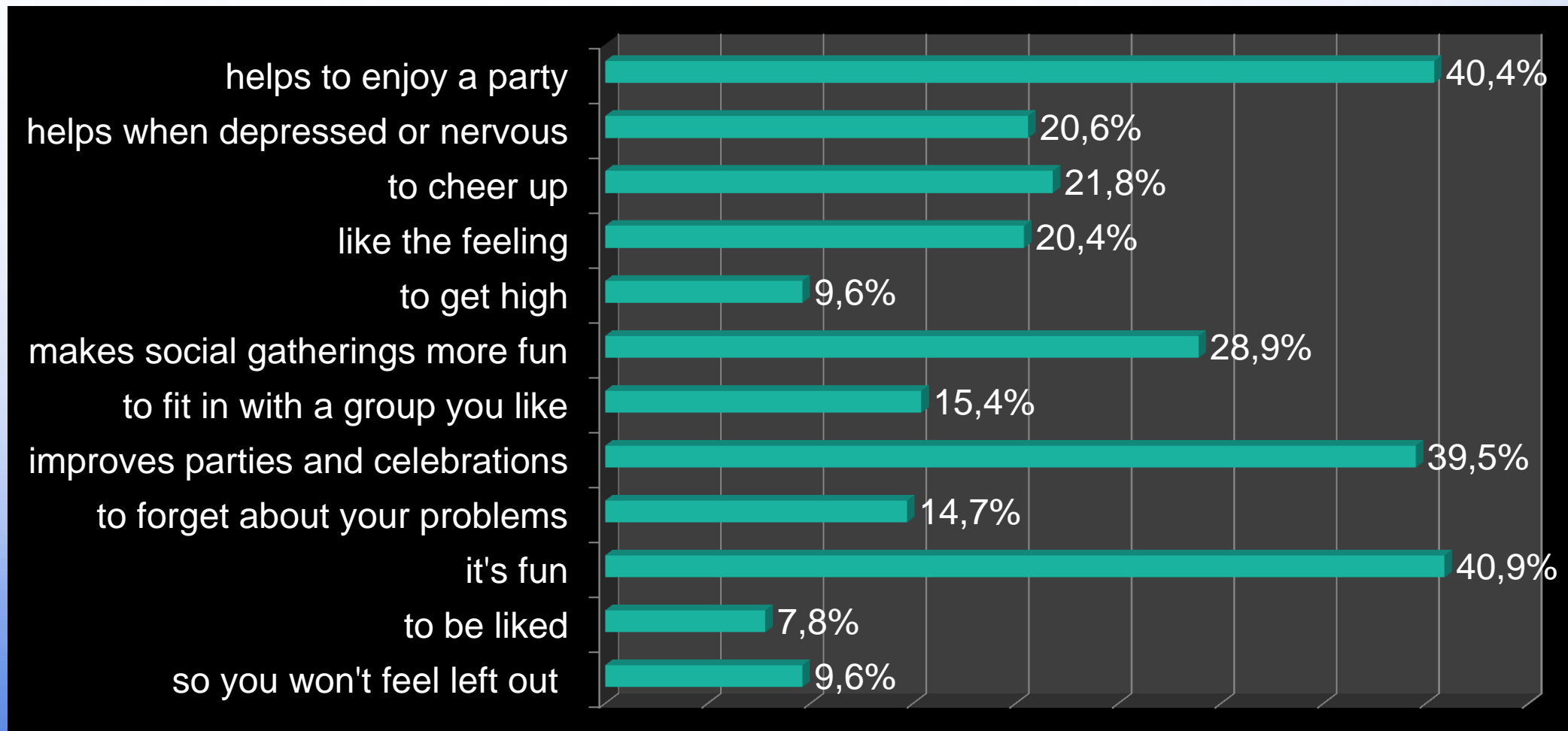


TABLE 2: CONSUMPTION RATES FOR THE PSYCHOACTIVE/NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES USED AT LEAST ONCE IN A LIFE- TIME

Lifetime Use	Boys	Girls	Total
Cannabis	19.0	3.1	11.5
Inhalants	10.5	14.1	12.1
Amphetamine	3.1	0.6	3.0
Methamphetamine	2.0	0.1	1.1
Ecstasy	7.2	1.1	4.4
LSD and other hallucinogens	3.7	0.9	2.4
Cocaine	2.3	1.2	1.8
Crack	1.6	0.2	1.0
Heroin	2.7	0.8	1.8
New psychoactive substances (NPS)	9.9	3.4	6.8

**TABLE 3: CONSUMPTION RATES FOR THE
PSYCHOACTIVE/NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES USED AT LEAST ONCE
IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS**

Last Year Use	Boys	Girls	Total
Cannabis	13.9	1.5	8.1
Inhalants	5.2	6.9	6.0
Amphetamine	1.8	0.3	1.1
Methamphetamines	1.2	0.1	0.7
Ecstasy	3.3	0.6	2.7
Cocaine	1.7	0.6	1.2
Crack	1.3	0.1	1.4
New psychoactive substances (NPS)	17.4	10.2	14.1

TABLE 5. USE OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES LAST 12 MONTHS. PERCENTAGES.

	Male	Female	Total
Herbal smoking mixtures	7.80	1.79	5.06
Liquids	5.24	1.53	3.55
Powders, crystals, tablets	3.63	1.41	2.62
Other	11.32	10.48	10.48
Used NPS last 12 month	17.41	10.23	14.14

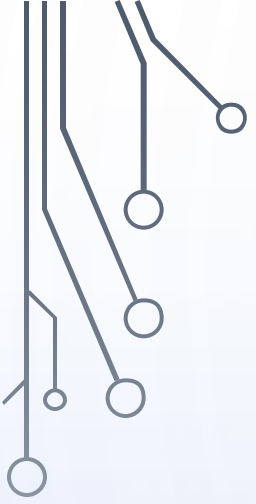



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- In addition to marijuana and hashish (cannabis) the most frequently consumed drugs are tranquilizers and sedatives used without a doctor's prescription by 11% of the surveyed students. These are followed by magic mushrooms (3%), tablets (medication) mixed together with alcoholic drinks to induce the state of "being high" (3%), "bio" spice (2.6%), hallucinogens (2%) and analgesics to "feel high" (2%).
 - Students consider cannabis (21%), tranquilizers/sedatives (12%), ecstasy (9%) and "bio" spice (7%) as the most easily available drugs

TABLE 4. AGE AT FIRST USE OF MARIJUANA OR HASHISH BY GENDER. PERCENTAGES.

	male	female	total
Never	81	96	87
9 years old or less	0	0	0
10 years old	1	0	1
11 years old	0	0	0
12 years old	1	0	0
13 years old	2	1	1
14 years old	4	0	2
15 years old	8	1	4
16 years or older	4	2	3

TABLE 6. FREQUENCY OF SEVERAL ACTIVITIES. PERCENTAGES.

	never	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	Almost everyday
Play computer games	16	13	13	24	34
Actively participate in sports, athletics or exercising	8	10	14	32	36
Read books for enjoyment	8	21	29	23	19
Go out in the evening	43	29	18	7	3
Other hobbies (play an instrument, sing, draw, write)	26	14	17	22	21
Go around with friends to shopping centres, streets, parks etc. just for fun	8	10	27	34	21
Use the Internet for leisure activities	7	4	5	15	70
Play on slot machines	89	5	2	2	3

TABLE 7. FREQUENCY OF INTERNET/TRADITIONAL SETTING GAMBLING DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY GENDER. PERCENTAGES.

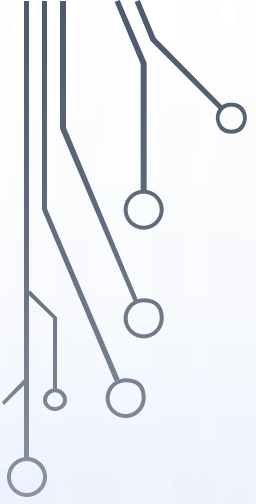



	Male	Female	Total
Internet	28	8	19
Traditional setting	21	7	14

Prevention-what we have

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES

The Code of Administrative Offences of Georgia regulates use and distribution of tobacco and alcohol:

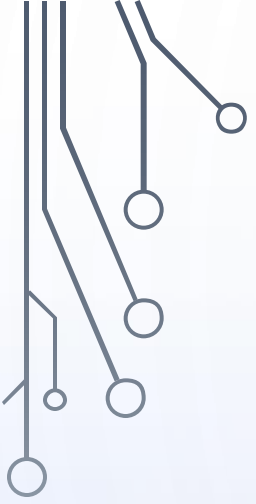



- a.) smoking tobacco in public places (including public transportation), educational and medical institutions, and in buildings/institutions serving children under 18;
- b.) selling tobacco products to persons under 18 and/or involving them in the tobacco sales or distribution business
- c.) the sale of tobacco in pre-school facilities, near schools or near children's sections of shopping centers;
- d.) it is prohibited to advertise smoking or broadcast images of smoking through television and mass media.

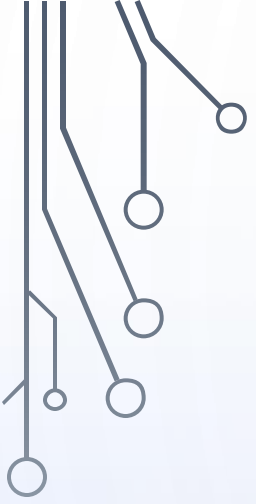



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- Alcohol consumption is prohibited in public places, and it may not be sold to persons under the age of 18;
 - Article 116 of the Code of Administrative Offences prohibits driving a motorized vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other psychoactive substances;
 - Individuals who work for state institutions and public services may be required to undergo a medical exam and alcohol or other drug testing;
 - Under the Ministry of Education and Science framework of the *Safe School Program*, the Legal Entity of Public Law (LEPL) the *Bailiffs' Service* “*Mandatory*” functions have been to “maintain public order and safety in educational facilities.

PREVENTION SYSTEM, POLICY AND STRATEGY (annex 1)

UNIVERSAL PREVENTION

- In 2014-2015, within the program of the Ministry of Education and Science “Implementation and monitoring of the national education plan”, a guide for teachers’ “Healthy Lifestyle” was developed, which, along with other issues, contains the material on the dependence on psychoactive substances. The guide has been uploaded to the following web-portal (<http://ncp.ge/ge/djansaghi-tskhovrebis-tsesi-rogoris-kompetentsia/djansaghi-tskhovrebis-tsesi>) and is accessible for any interested person.

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- Within the framework of the State Antidrug Strategy Action Plan, the legal public body (LEPL) *National Center for Teachers' Professional Development* conducts training for primary school teachers and class masters – “**Development of effective communication and cooperation skills in primary school children**”;
 - In 2015, MoES approved the ***Parent Development and Involvement Program*** in the framework of which it is planned to design an electronic guidebook which provides parents with information on their child's development and healthy lifestyle.
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- According to the Ministry of Education and Science, school children acquire preventive information within different teaching modules, like biology, civic education, etc. This information is presented in the form of “pervading” themes:
 - All schools received copies of the textbook on “**Legal Culture**” where one chapter is dedicated to “vicious habits and corresponding dangerous results” (MoES, 2015);
 - According to the MoES, With technical assistance of the *Georgian HIV Prevention Project* (GHPP), MoES first introduced the healthy lifestyle curriculum during the 2013-2014 academic years, with the use of a specialized textbook for biology teachers. Students 15-18 years old receive information on HIV/AIDS, illicit drugs, tobacco, and alcohol use related harm and early pregnancy risks through their biology courses;


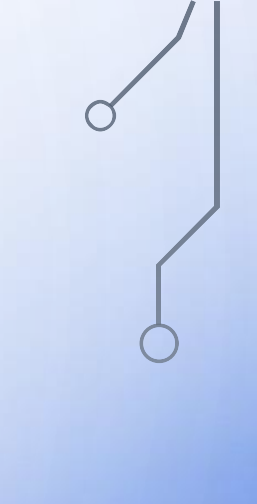

- According to MoES the subprogram “**Functioning of the medical center within public schools and activities of school doctor’s**”, in addition to providing health care services to school children and staff, aims to promote a healthy lifestyle and inform teachers and children on healthcare and prevention issues (Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, 2016)
- **FROM MARCH 2017** MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE AND STATE UNIVERSITY OF SPORTS AND PHYSICAL UPBRINGING HAVE APPLIED PILOT PROJECT “**ACTIVE SPORT FOR EVERY SCHOOL**”, Which aims to introduce a healthy and safe lifestyle by improving physical education and sports training (TEACHERS OF 20 SCHOOLS IN TBILISI AND REGIONS WILL BE RETRAINED. AFTER WILL BE INTRODUCED IN ALL SCHOOLS)


SELECTIVE AND INDICATED PREVENTION

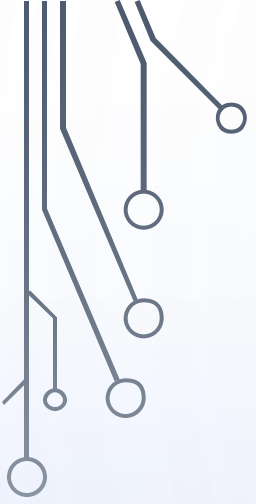
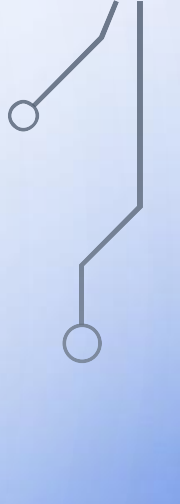


- *The Child Care and Psychological Assistance Centre* under the Bailiff 's service targets schoolchildren with different behavioral problems, including adolescents with problems related to psychoactive substances;
- *The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia* implements activities aiming to establish a healthy lifestyle (physical exercises, expeditions, workshops on civic education) (Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia, 2016). The *LEPL Crime Prevention Center* and the *Ministry of Justice* of Georgia carry out preventive work with vulnerable groups, like children and adolescents referred by schools due to delinquency problems, juvenile probationers and convicts, internally displaced adolescents, etc. The named interventions did not target psychoactive substances in 2015.



CAMPAIGNS- Anti-drug campaigns in Georgia are the most common forms of universal prevention measures

- On June 26, the International Day against Drug Abuse, was celebrated by many educational institutions throughout the country. Presentations were made on drug abuse, HIV prevention and prevalence - (Georgian Ministry of Education and Science, 2016);
 - On November 10-17, 2015, MoES of Georgia organized an International Week of Science and Innovation, in the framework of which public lectures on biopsychology and neuroscience of psychoactive substance abuse as well as the effect of harmful habits on the sleep-wake cycle were delivered;
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- Annually, including 2014, the LEPL *National Centre for Disease Control* under the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs conducted anti-tobacco awareness campaigns which consisted to the publication and dissemination of various leaflets and brochures on the harms of smoking tobacco
 - In 2014, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) conducted a large-scale anti-drug campaign to prevent the use of Bio-drugs (new synthetic compounds); the title of the campaign was “No to Bio-Drugs – Let us change attitudes together!”. According to the MIA, the following events were conducted under the framework of this campaign: anti-drug public service announcements (PSA’s) were developed; MIA representatives met with school and university students to discuss “Bios”; a special competition for the best anti-drug media-products was held with participation of students from the Tbilisi State University Journalism School.

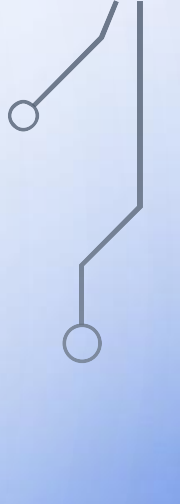
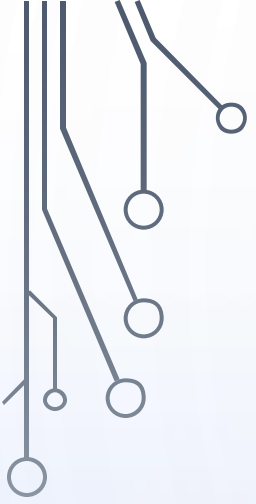
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- According to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, a priority of the State Youth Policy in 2014 was “**healthy lifestyle and engagement of youth in cultural and creative activities**” with the aim of increasing awareness of health and popularizing healthy lifestyles. A variety of cultural, creative and sports events were held as part of the programs which included students’ days, educational events, intellectual competitions, and sports events with the slogan “**Choose a Healthy Lifestyle.**” In 2014 the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs also conducted an anti-tobacco awareness campaign, which included the publication and dissemination of informational anti-tobacco materials during the aforementioned events (Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia, 2015)

BEMONI PUBLIC UNION (BPU) EMPOWERMENT FOR THE FUTURE PROJECT

YOUTH HEALTH CLUBS IN TELAVI AND OZURGETI



The aim of the Youth Health Club (YHC) is to provide a safe, supportive place where adolescents and young people can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for healthy life.



IOM PROJECT - „AWARENESS ABOUT DRUG MISUSE AMONG THE VULNERABLE GROUPS IN GEORGIA” - AIMED TO HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, CREATIVE PRODUCT IS CREATED, COMPETITIONS ARE HELD, REWARDS ARE GIVEN.

Supports the project:

International Bureau of State Anti-Drug and Law
Enforcement Programs

U.S. Embassy in Georgia

Ministry of Education and Science





ACTION-RESEARCH PROJECT (2012 Y)

UNPLUGGED Program - European Drug Prevention Trial

Not implemented





CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENTION OF ADDICTION INITIATIVE GROUP

GOAL:

- PREVENTION OF DRUG ADDICTION
- PUBLIC AWARENESS
- HELPING THE TARGET GROUP (ADOLESCENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS ETC.)

Target activities:

- ARTICLES
- ORGANIZING PARENTS GROUP
- LECTURES/SEMINARS
- ONLINE CONSULTATIONS
- MAKING BOOKLETS
- MAKING A VIDEO



National Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment
ATTC Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Certificate of Completion

Sophie Mosia

NIDA Notes: Electronic Tools for Use in the Continuum of Care for Patients With Addiction

Course completed 11/15/2016



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Certificate of Completion

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SBIRT for Adolescents Certificate of Completion

SBIRT for Adolescents
3 hour online course offered by the National SBIRT ATTC
Presented by Sharon Levy, MD, MPH
Course completed 11/28/2016



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Certificate of Completion

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SBIRT101 Online Course, Part 3

3 Hrs. CEU
IRETA101 Online Course, PART 3, administered by IRETA
TESTCEUAgency #000
Course completed 12/6/2016



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IRETA.ORG

OUR NEEDS AND WISHES

- Implementation and development of preventive programs
- Support and strengthening of resources
- trainings
- Internet-based drug treatment interventions

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

