



PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF POTI IN 2020

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INTRODUCTION:

Transparency International Georgia assessed the activities carried out by the City Council of Poti municipality (Hereinafter Poti City Council) in 2020.

The report is based on the information requested and received from the City Council as well as the information published on the official web-site of the City Council, and on observations of our organization.

The research covers the period of 2020.

Transparency International Georgia [evaluated](#) Poti City Council's performance in 2020 as well. The study covered the period from November 2017 to 2019.

CHAPTER 1. MAIN FINDINGS

- Poti City Council exercised a weak oversight of the executive body and the legal entities founded by the municipality. The City Council, in most cases, formally controlled the activities of the officials and certain agencies accountable to it;
- The City Council of Poti has not identified a single case of the conflict of interests, incompatible activities, violation of the Rules of Procedure of the City Hall and the norms of ethics;
- During the reporting period, more than half (13 sessions) of the sessions (22 sessions) held by Poti City Council were extraordinary sessions;
- During the same period, Poti City Council adopted 30 resolutions, 27 of which were authored/initiated by the Mayor of Poti and 3 - by the commissions of the City Council;
- 13 public officials of Poti City Council were obliged to submit the asset declarations. 6 of them submitted incomplete asset declarations;
- None of 6 factions of the City Council submitted an initiative during the same period;
- The expenditures made by Poti municipality, which summed up to GEL 303,016, is greatly disproportional with the minimal performance of the factions;
- The Gender Equality Council operates in the City Council of Poti, however, similar to the previous period, the Gender Equality Council has not carried out the analysis of the legal acts nor has it provided the expertise on the draft legal acts. The Gender Equality Council has not submitted a statement, documentation or the information of any type to the City Council;

- During the research period, the members of the City Council were absent 140 times in total during the City Council sessions, including 134 absences - without a valid reason. The members of the City Council did not participate in the commission sittings 200 times, including 195 absences - without a valid reason;
- The Deputy Chairman of the Georgian Roots faction, Zurab Chachua, is the only one among the current members of the City Council, who has never exercised the right to speech at the sessions of the City Council. The members of the Georgian Dream faction, Apolon Bzhalva and Malkhaz Pochkhua, delivered speeches only once;
- 16 out of 25 members of the City Council have not delivered reports to the City Council;
- Among the members of the City Council, the Chairwoman of the Kolkheti faction, Maia Chkhartishvili, missed the most sessions (17 sessions) without a valid reason. The Deputy Chairman of the Kolkheti faction, Paata Chaganava, missed the most sessions (32 sessions) of commission without a valid reason. It should be noted that Maia Chkhartishvili and Paata Chaganava were among the members with most absences of the sessions of the City Council and commissions without a valid reason during the previous reporting period (From November 2017 to 2019);
- A total of GEL 1,293,800 was allocated for the City Council expenses in the 2020 budget of Poti municipality, out of which GEL 973,367 was spent on the remuneration. GEL 1,236 was given to several members of the City Council staff as a class-based salary bonus. 16.36 tonnes of fuel worth GEL 68,303 has been purchased as well;
- The Chairman of Poti City Council, Beka Vacharadze, spent up to 4 tonnes (3,896 litres) of fuel (worth GEL 9,530 in total) among the total volume expended by the City Council.

CHAPTER 2. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY COUNCIL OF POTI

The City Council of Poti is the representative body of the municipality of Poti city, which exercises the [powers](#) determined by the Local Self-Government Code in **the municipality of Poti city**. The City Council also **exercises control on the activities of the executive body and its officials** within the limits established by law and carries out other powers determined by the Constitution of Georgia, other legislative acts, and the Rules of Procedure of the City Council.

The City Council Poti has **25** members, **10** of whom were elected in local single-mandate majoritarian electoral districts, while **15** were elected through the proportional system.

There are only **4** women among members of the Municipal Council, which amounts to 16% of the total membership. Among the public officials of the Council, only one of them is a woman - the Chairwoman of the Kolkheti faction.

The City Council has the authority to create commissions for the purpose of preparing issues for the City Council, facilitating the implementation of decisions, and exercising control on the structural units of the City Hall and legal entities established by the City Council. The City Council of Poti has created the following **commissions** for the duration of its term of office:

1. The Commission on Legal, Mandate, and Ethics Issues (Chairperson – Khvicha Tskhvitaria);
2. The Commission of Finance and Budget (Chairperson – Tornike Kirtadze);
3. The Commission on Social Issues (Chairperson – Bakar Eragia);
4. The Commission on Property Management and Natural Resources Issues (Chairperson - Temur Dundua)
5. The Commission of Spatial-Territorial Planning and Infrastructure (Chairperson – Tornike Kharchilava).

There are 6 factions in the City Council:

Faction	Chairperson
Georgian Dream	Samson Kutalia
Georgian Dream - Conservatives	Zviad Dgebuadze
Georgian Dream - Industrials	Jemal Migineishvili
Poti	Dato Khomeriki
Kolkheti	Maia Chkhartishvili
Georgian Roots	Tornike Shonia

Each chairperson of the factions, except the Georgian Dream - Conservatives, has deputies. has 18 out of 25 members of Poti City Council are the public officials. See the detailed information in the annex.

General Statistics:

During the reporting period, the Municipal Council held 22 sessions in total, including 13 extraordinary sessions, which amounted to more than a half of the total number of sessions. The extraordinary sessions were initiated by the Mayor of Poti (in 8 cases) and mutually by the Mayor and the Chairman of the City Council (in 5 cases) . None of the sessions were cancelled during the reporting period due to the lack of quorum. During the same period, 62 sessions of the bureau were held.

Number of sessions held by the City Council of Poti in 2020	
Regular Sessions	9
Extraordinary Sessions	13

During the reporting period, the City Council of Poti adopted 30 resolutions, 27 of which were initiated by the Mayor of Poti and 7 by various commissions of the City Council.

The body responsible for the oversight on the legal acts adopted by the Municipal Council of Poti has not prepared a single prepared report.

CHAPTER 3. IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

Electing a new Chairman of the City Council:

Beka Vacharadze was elected as a new Chairman of the City Council on April 29, 2020. The election of a new Chairman of the City Council became necessary, when the Investigation Service of the Ministry of Finances [arrested](#) a former Chairman of the City Council, Irakli Kakulia on November 8, 2019. According to the investigation, Irakli Kakulia, while holding the position of the Mayor of Poti, along with other employees of the City Hall, embezzled a total of GEL 528,821, from which Kakulia [misappropriated](#) GEL 170 thousand. In February 2020, he was released from prison on GEL 50,000 bail. His membership of the City Council was abolished on April 29.

Changes among the members of the City Council of Poti:

On April 29, 2020, Irakli Dundua became a member of the City Council through the proportional list of the Georgian Dream. He replaced the former Chairman of the City Council, Irakli Kakulia.

Changes among the members of commissions and factions:

Prior to his election as a Chairman of the City Council, Beka Vacharadze held the position of the Chairman of Spatial-Planning and Infrastructure Issues Commission. He was replaced by Deputy Chairman of the Georgian Dream faction, Tornike Kharchilava, in this position.

Tornike Shonia left the majority and created the Georgian Roots faction, who held the position of the Property Management and Natural Resources Commission until June 2020.

Zurab Chachua, who was the Chairman of the Georgian Dream faction now holds the position of the Deputy Chairman of the Georgian Roots faction.

Meanwhile, Samson Kutalia was elected as a new Chairman of the Georgian Dream faction, while Davit Kvitsiani became his deputy.

Transfer of property to the state free of charge:

During the reporting period, the City Council of Poti transferred the following pieces of property to the state free of charge:

- A vehicle, TOYOTA PRADO (Registration Number ZZ040ZV), owned by Poti municipality, was transferred to the State Security Service free of charge on July 30, 2020.

Two [plots](#) of [land](#), located in the city of Poti, owned by the municipality and located on David Aghmashenebeli street, Poti (219 sq/m and 1230 sq/m) were transferred into the ownership of the National Agency of State Property free of charge on September 29, 2020.

CHAPTER 4. ACTIVITIES OF COMMISSIONS AND FACTIONS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Activities of commissions of the City Council:

The five standing commissions of the City Council of Poti held 76 sessions in total during the reporting period. Two sessions of two commissions were cancelled due to lack of quorum. The commissions submitted a total of 34 draft legal acts to the City Council for consideration. In addition, the Commission on Legal, Mandate, and Human Rights Issues prepared 112 reports on the compliance of draft legal acts with legislation to be considered by the City Council.

Number of Sessions of Commissions of the City Council Held in 2020				
Commission on Legal, Mandate, Procedure and Ethics Issues	Commission on Spatial-Territorial Planning and Infrastructure Issues	Commission on Finance and Budget Issues	Commission on Social Issues	Commission on Property Management and Natural Resources Issues
16	13	19	11	17

Number of draft legal acts submitted by commissions to the City Council				
Commission on Legal, Mandate, Procedure and Ethics Issues	Commission on Spatial-Territorial Planning and Infrastructure Issues	Commission on Finance and Budget Issues	Commission on Social Issues	Commission on Property Management and Natural Resources Issues
12	6	11	2	3

Activities of factions of the City Council:

There are 6 factions in total in the City Council of Poti elected as of 2020. There were 5 factions prior to that. The new, sixth faction - Georgian Roots was created in June, 2020. None of these factions have initiated a single issue during 2020.

Considering the minimum activity carried out by the factions, the expenditures incurred by Poti Municipality on its functioning – which amounted to **GEL 303,016** in total – are disproportionately large, specifically:

Expenditures incurred on the activities of factions in 2020 (in GEL)		
Telephone Communication Costs	Fuel Costs	Remunerations
4,512	14,794	283,710

CHAPTER 5. MONITORING OF THE BODIES ACCOUNTABLE TO THE CITY COUNCIL

According to the Local Self-Government Code, the city council has the powers to monitor the activities of the municipality's executive bodies and of their officials and to hear and evaluate¹ their reports, and the mayor is accountable to the municipal council of the municipality and to the population².

The City Council of Poti heard and positively evaluated the reports of the departments of the Mayor of Poti and as well as particular legal entities of the municipality. Representatives of the City Hall were invited by the City Council to discuss individual issues 22 times. 13 members of the City Council addressed the Mayor of Poti regarding particular issues.

During the reporting period, the City Council of Poti did not support 3 issues presented by the Mayor of Poti. The issues are the following: Transfer of property to one of the N(N)LEs; Conducting a new auction on privatization of property and defining relief on fees for cleaning services provided for particular persons.

The City Council of Poti has not identified any conflict of interest or misconduct in the City Hall's activities in 2020. [According](#) to the City Council, "There were no facts of misconduct / conflict of interests identified among the members of the City Council during the reporting period"

However, the results of two researches published by Transparency International Georgia prove the opposite:

Transparency International Georgia [published](#) a research in May 2020 on the problem of noise and air pollution in the IDP settlement of Poti. The study showed that this problem derives from activities of various factories, some of them related to the Mayor of Poti, Gocha Kurdgelia. The noise comes from trucks operating 24 hours a day, while the spread of dust during the unloading of trucks causes pollution.

In December 2020, we published a [research](#) on the tenders of Khalibi LTD, a company owned by Ramaz Gujabidze, a business partner of the Mayor of Poti, Gocha Kurdgelia, which has received more than GEL 310,000 worth of contracts from the state procurements since 2012. Gocha Kurdgelia became the Mayor of Poti in November 2017. The number of simplified procurements and money given to Khalibi LTD by municipal legal entities has grown significantly since Gocha Kurdgelia's election as a Mayor of Poti. 373 out of 671 simplified procurements received by Khalibi LTD, worth GEL 156,196 in total, came from the municipal legal entities of Poti at the time of publication of the research.

The new Chairman of the City Council of Poti, Beka Vacharadze, is a son of [the Head](#) of Administration of Poti City Hall, Inga Maskhulia. According to the current legislation, the City Council is the controlling body of the City Hall. Therefore, a certain type of conflict of interests is present among the Chairman of the City Council and the Head of Administration of the City Hall. The son is responsible for controlling the establishment that is led by his mother.

1 Sub-paragraph C,A of Paragraph 1 of Article 24

2 Paragraph 2, Article 48 of the Local Self-Government Code

CHAPTER 6. INCOMPLETE ASSET DECLARATIONS AND INCOMPATIBLE ACTIVITY

13 public officials (Chairperson of the City Council, Deputy Chairperson of the City Council, Chairperson of Commission and Chairperson of Faction) of the City Council of Poti have the obligation to submit asset declarations. 6 of them submitted asset declarations with deficiencies.

Requirement of legislation:

According to the [Law](#) on Conflict of Interest and Corruption in Public Institutions, an official is obliged to fill out an asset declaration completely within two months after his/her appointment to the office³, indicate information about his/her and his/her family members' property and economic interests⁴, transfer the management rights of his/her stakes in business entities to another person⁵, and resign from the position of the head (director) of the business entity within 10 days after being appointed to the office.⁶

It should be noted that Transparency International Georgia has no capacity to verify the status of companies mentioned in the research as this type of information is a tax secret.



Beka Vacharadze

Chairman of the City Council of Poti

In his [declaration](#) submitted in January 2021, the information of the family pointed out by Beka Vacharadze differs from the information submitted by his mother, Inga Maskhulia, the Head of Administration of Poti City Hall.

Beka Vacharadze noted only his mother, wife and a child in the list of family members of the declaration. Inga Maskhulia has included her husband and two children (adults), besides Beka Vacharadze.

Beka Vacharadze is obliged to submit complete information on his family members in the asset declaration according to [the Law](#) on Conflict of Interests and Corruption in Public Service.

3 Paragraph 1, Article 14

4 Article 15

5 Paragraph 6, Article 16

6 Article 14, Paragraph 10



Temur Dundua

Chairman of the Council on Property Management and Natural Resources Issues

In his [declaration](#) submitted in August 2020, Temur Dundua has not noted that his father, Tengiz Dundua, is an [individual entrepreneur](#) and the Director and owner of 100% of shares in [Aniko](#) LTD, that is the violation of [the Law](#) on Conflict of Interests and Corruption in public Service.



Bakar Eragia

Chairman of the Commission on Social Issues

In his [declaration](#) submitted in January 2021, Bakar Eragia has noted that he owns 50% of shares in [B G Group](#) LTD, however, despite the requirements of [the Law](#) on Conflict of Interests and Corruption in Public Service, he has not transferred his shares with management rights to another person.



Tornike Kharchilava

Chairman of the Commission on Spatial-Territorial Planning and Infrastructure Issues

In his [declaration](#) submitted in August 2020, Tornike Kharchilava has noted that he owns 40% of shares in [Potigalvanizemetal](#) LTD, however, he has not transferred his shares with management right to another person, despite the requirements of [the law](#).



Zviad Dgebuadze

Chairman of the Georgian Dream - Conservatives faction

In his [declaration](#) submitted in January 2021, Zviad Dgebuadze has not noted that he is an [individual entrepreneur](#), that is the violation of [the law](#) on Conflict of Interests and Corruption in Public Service.



Dato Khomeriki

Chairman of the Poti faction

In his [declaration](#) submitted in February 2021, Dato Khomeriki has not noted that he owns 20% of shares in [Veteran Sportsmen Club Bermukha](#) LTD, that is the violation of [the law](#) on Conflict of Interests and Corruption in Public Service.

CHAPTER 7. INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

The [Rules of Procedure](#) of the City Council of Poti does not specify what kind of absence from a session by a member of the City Council should be considered as absence without a valid reason. The Rules of Procedure relies on a provision of the Local self-Government Code, [according](#) to which the powers of a member of a city council is to be prematurely terminated if he/she has not participated, without a valid reason, in the work of the city council for 6 consecutive months.

Participation in sessions of the Municipal Council:

Members of the City Council were absent from the Council's sessions 140 times, including 134 absences without a valid reason.

Among members of the City Council, the Chairwoman of the Kolkheti faction, Maia Chkhartishvili, missed the most sessions (17 sessions) of the City Council without a valid reason, followed by a member of the Georgian Dream faction, Apolon Bzhalava with 16 sessions and the Deputy Chairperson of the Kolkheti faction, Paata Chaganava, with 15 sessions.

See the detailed information in the annex.

Participation in sessions of the Municipal Council's commissions:

Members of the City Council missed sessions of commissions 200 times, including 195 absences without a valid reason.

Among members of the City Council, Irakli Ghurtskaia, the Deputy Chairman of the Kolkheti faction, Paata Chaganva, missed the most sessions of commissions (32 sessions) without a valid reason. The Chairwoman of the Kolkheti faction, Maia Chkhartishvili (28 sessions), Deputy Chairman of the Georgian Roots faction, Zurab Chachua (25 sessions) and the Chairman of the Poti faction, Dato Khomeriki (22 sessions), are among the leaders in number of absences of sessions of the commission without a valid reason.

See the detailed information in the annex.

An indicator of delivery of speeches and reports at the sessions of the City Council

In 2020, the Deputy Chairman of the Georgian Roots faction, Zurab Chachua, is the only one among the members of the City Council who has never exercised the right to speech at the sessions of the City Council. The members of the Georgian Dream faction, Apolon Bzhalva and Malkhaz pochkhua exercised the right to speech 2 times, one time - each.

Regarding the delivery of the report to the City Council, 16 out of 25 current members of the City Council have not used the opportunity.

See the detailed information on the delivery of speeches and presentation of reports by the members of the City Council at the sessions of the City Council in annex.

CHAPTER 8. CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

The City Council of Poti has adopted, by relevant resolutions, all the regulations that ensure citizen involvement in the activities of the municipality, including in those of the City Council:

- Online Petition System has been adopted;
- The citizens are allowed to digitally address the municipality online with a specific initiative and request desired information using the web-site;
- According to the special rule, a citizen is the right to address the City Council and register as a speaker, co-speaker and/or make a special statement, at the session of the City Council 2 days prior to the session, however, this rule does not deprive a citizen to exercise the same rights without registration;
- The sessions of the City Council are broadcasted using a social network;
- The public officials of the City Council of Poti deliver reports of their activities twice a year, while the Self-Government Code determines an obligation of at least one delivery of report a year;
- The City Council holds the public discussions of the budget along with the City Hall;
- During the reporting period, 3 petitions have been registered at the City Council of Poti with the following requests:

Petitions Discussed at the City Council of Poti	
Petition	Results of Discussion
Formation of a working group on the study of Air Pollution and Fish Odour related issues	Supported
Installation of an Atmospheric Air Monitoring Automated Station near the Naval Harbour of Poti	Supported
Relocation of an Atmospheric Air Monitoring Automated Station from Javakhishvili street to Chavchavadze street	Has not been supported

The City Council of Poti has adopted the rules, which regulated procedures of convocation of the general assembly of settlement, however, despite this fact, a general assembly of settlement has never been held in Poti municipality and the citizens have not used this important mechanism.

It should be noted that the City Council of Poti did not share Transparency International Georgia's [proposition on](#) reducing the lower threshold of consignees of the petition from 1% to 0,5%.

CHAPTER 9. ACTIVITIES OF THE GENDER EQUALITY COUNCIL

The Gender Equality Council has been operating in Poti City Council since 2018. The action plan was approved by the Municipal Council on July 26, 2019, however, despite this fact, similar to the previous study period, in 2020, the Gender Equality Council:

- Has not provided legal analysis of the legal acts
- Has not provided expertise of a single draft legal act

At the same time, no statement, document or other relevant information on the violation of gender equality has been submitted to the City Council of Poti.

According to the City Council of Poti, they are planning to submit an activity report of the gender equality council to the City Council of Poti. Hereby, the 2021-2023 working plan⁷ of the gender equality council of Poti municipality will be presented to the City Council of Poti for adoption in the near future.

⁷ After the reporting period of this research, in March 2021, the City Council of Poti adopted [decree](#) on Adoption of the Middle-Term Gender Equality Strategy of the Municipality of the City of Poti of 2021-2023

CHAPTER 10. EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF POTI

Remunerations:

In 2020, the total amount of remuneration in the City Council of Poti amounts to GEL 973,367. During the same period, no bonuses, rewards and salary supplements have been awarded. Class-based bonuses were only given to particular public officials, with a total amount of GEL 1,236.

Remunerations issued at the City Council of Poti elected in 2020 (in GEL)	
Public Officials (18 individuals)	502,782
Members of the Staff of the City Council (16 individuals)	258,371
Contract-based Staff Employees at the City Council (15 individuals)	212,214
In Total	973,367

See the detailed information on remunerations issued for Poti City Council officials in 2020 in the annex.

Expenses of business trips:

During the reporting period, a total of GEL **1,651** was spent on the work trips of members and staff of the City Council of Poti within the country and abroad.

Telephone communication expenses:

The City Council of Poti spent **GEL 17,986** on telephone communications in 2020, which is greater than the amount spent during the last two years (**GEL 14,007**) (From November 2017 to December 2019) by **GEL 3,979**.

Remuneration for the work of members of the City Council:

The Local Self-Government Code provides the possibility of reimbursement of costs incurred for those members of the City Council who are not officials and, accordingly, do not receive remuneration. The total amount of these reimbursements at the City Council of Poti equaled **GEL 30,888** in 2020.

Vehicles and fuel expenses:

There is only one vehicle on the account of the City Council of Poti, which is used by the Chairman of the City Council and the Staff of the City Council. The vehicle is Volkswagen Passat, produced in 2012, and the municipality bought it for GEL 49,100 in 2013. GEL 5,511 was spent on its repairs in 2020.

Only the members of the City Council with the status of a public official consume the fuel purchased by the local budget. There are specific limits determined for each of them. The largest limit of 600 litres has been allocated for the Chairman of the City Council, while the other public officials have a 70-litres limit.

In 2020, the City Council of Poti consumed **16,366** litres of fuel worth **GEL 33,043** in total.

The Chairman of the City Council, Beka Vacharadze, spent **3,896** litres of fuel worth **GEL 9,530** in total, that is **24%** of the total amount spent by the City Council of Poti in general.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exercise of oversight function:

- Members of the City Council of Poti should be actively involved in oversight activities. In particular, they should use control mechanisms more often and should supervise the process of public procurements and large infrastructure projects more effectively;
- The standing commissions of the City Council should be actively involved in the process of oversight of the activities of the executive bodies;
- The City Council should actively and conscientiously reveal cases of conflict of interest, incompatibility with office, and violations of the Rules of Procedure of the City Council and of ethical norms in the municipality.

Sessions of the City Council:

- The City Council of Poti should improve the organizational part of its activities, reduce the number of extraordinary sessions as such sessions obstruct the involvement of citizens, mobilization of the interest groups, opportunity to prepare the issues to be heard and transparency of a representative body.

Accountability:

- Attendance of members of the City Council at the sessions of the Council and its commissions should be improved. We believe that every member of a City Council should take responsibility and attend the sessions. In addition, members of a City Council should be subjected to corresponding sanctions in the event of missing a session without a valid reason;
- Members of the City Council should actively exercise their right to deliver a speech at the sessions of the City Council and Commissions, submit their thoughts on the issues under discussion, and provide the information on specific needs of citizens to the City Council as well as to the City Hall;
- Filling out asset declarations by officials is an important mechanism for ensuring transparency and accountability. At the same time, filling out declarations incompletely also contains a risk of corruption. For this reason, it is necessary that officials fill out declarations completely and without any shortcomings.

Activities of factions:

- It is important for the activities of factions to be beneficial for the relevant self-government. Factions should get actively involved in the process of considering and deciding on issues that fall under the powers of the City Council, study / control the activities of the City Hall and municipal legal entities; submit initiatives to the City Council; get actively involved in the budgeting process; etc. Factions increase

citizens' involvement in self-government, as well as support local initiatives and advocate for citizens' needs and problems. Therefore, we call upon the factions to use these instruments actively.

Expenditures of the City Council:

- It is important that the expenses incurred by the City Council to be in compliance with the exercise of the powers assigned to the Council by law;
- The City Council should exercise strict control on the administrative expenditures of both the representative body, in particular, and the municipality, in general, and be oriented on efficient spending of financial resources.

Petition:

The legislation gives the self-governances an opportunity to [reduce](#) the number of signatures required for a petition to any amount they desire. The Self-Government Code only determines the upper threshold - 1%, which could be hardly achieved in particular municipalities, taking a large number of citizens into account;

- Considering the fact that only 3 petitions have been registered during the reporting period, the City Council of Poti should also reduce the lower threshold of the number of signatures required for petitions and determine 0,3% or 0,5% instead of 1%, that will make the procedure of preparation of petition easier for interested individuals.

General Assembly of a Settlement:

- According to the Local Self-Government Code of Georgia, the general assembly of a settlement is one of the most important mechanisms of the citizens' involvement in self-governance. The voters, as well the Mayor of a municipality on his/her own will or using the City Council's solicitation, are given the right of convocation;
- As the General Assembly of a Settlement has not been held yet, it is important that this mechanism will be activated by the City Council's initiative. The City Council should address the Mayor to hold the assembly. The General Assembly of a Settlement is necessary for the municipality to better plan the budget of the next year.