PIN has been working in Georgia for supporting good governance since 2006, cooperating with local and national government on community planning.

Since 2016 PIN introduced the model of participatory planning of social services based on PIN Georgia and PIN SIP experiences
Overall Objective:

To promote accountability and contribute to enhanced governance and inclusive growth at the local level through effective cooperation between civil society organizations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs) on provision of well target services for vulnerable groups.
Establishment of Advisory Committees

Advisory Committees on Social Inclusion were established in four municipalities of Georgia (Zugdidi, Gori, Tkibuli and Khoni) as a multi-stakeholder mechanism for improved social services at the local level.
AC composition

- Senior representatives of local government (Gamgebeli, Head of local Council, Head of Social Department)

- Most active social service providers covering wide range of vulnerable groups (elderly, PWDs, IDPs, youth, children, probationers etc.)

- Representatives of regional branches of Social Service Agency of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

- Representatives of vulnerable groups
Advisory committee

- Advisory committees meet at least once per month. It is facilitated by target organization.

- Advisory committees were involved in the process of studying social service delivery at the local level.

- Based on the study results, advisory committees have developed municipal strategies on social inclusion.

- Based on the strategies, 2017 action plans have been developed, which have been implemented through grant call, with co-funding of the local government.
Experts study and participatory needs assessment

In order to identify needs of vulnerable groups and availability of social services in the target municipalities, expert study was provided by sub-contracted organization CSI.

Research was based on the following methodology:

- Desk research
- In-depth interviews with Field Experts and Decision-makers
- Focus groups with
  1. vulnerable groups
  2. family members of vulnerable groups and
  3. members of advisory committees
Experts study and participatory needs assessment identified

- General Environment and Situation of Social Service Provision at National Level
- General Environment and Situation of Social Service Provision in Target Municipalities
- Need of Socially Vulnerable Groups
- Issues related to IDPs
Municipal Strategies on Social Inclusion

Based on the research findings, Advisory Committees of target municipalities development Municipal Strategies on Social Inclusion for 2017–2018

It was the first time in Georgia, that Social Inclusion strategies were developed at the local level.
Following Strategy Development process, Advisory Committees elaborated Action Plans for 2017

To implement 2017 action plans, grant call was announced in Zugdidi, Gori, Tkibuli and Khoni municipalities.

41 applications were submitted by civil society organizations and the local authorities.

The Selection Commission recommended financing of 17 projects.
Target group, covered by the funded projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target groups</th>
<th>Number of projects</th>
<th>Municipalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The elderly</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>All four municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (attending kindergartens)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gori, Tkibuli, Khoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Zugdidi, Gori, Tkibuli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDPs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Zugdidi, Gori, Khoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socially vulnerable</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Khoni, Tkibuli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons with disabilities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Zugdidi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gori</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Social services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Municipalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction of a new service</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>All four municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension/improvement of existing services</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>All four municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovative approach</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>All four municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-financing by the local government</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>All four municipalities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sustainability of supported services

- Local government of all target municipalities committed to the continuation of the services through municipal budgets in 2018
- Advisory Committees will develop Action Plans 2018
- Municipal social policy is moving to long-term social services instead of one time monetary assistance
- Advisory Committee methodology is promoted and shared with other municipalities of the same regions
Factors that contributed to the project success

- Proper selection (based on the initial assessment) of the Advisory Committee members, that ensured ownership
- Strategy/Action Plan Development based on the real needs of vulnerable groups (proved by participatory needs assessment)
- Transparent process of grants allocation for introducing new social services
- Capacity building/intensive consultations of the local authorities and AC members to insure follow up on the project methodology in future
Challenges of replication at the national level

- Social Service provision is strongly centralized in Georgia and is supervised by Social Service Agency of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.
- According to the legislation, the Ministry has no legal power over municipalities, thus cannot introduce a common approach at the local level.
- Social Service Provision is not an exclusive power (obligatory) for local government. They are free to decide what to do in the sector and at what extend.
Perspectives

- According to the Civil Code of Self Governance of Georgia, municipal authorities are obliged to establish Advisory Committees.
- Advisory Committees on Social Inclusion can serve as best practice of participatory planning of social services to other municipalities.
- Parliamentary Committee on Regional Development and Self-government is ready to promote this methodology in other regions of Georgia.
- Local authorities changed their attitude towards social service provision and are moving to long term service provision and are committed to continue AC work in future.
Thank you!