

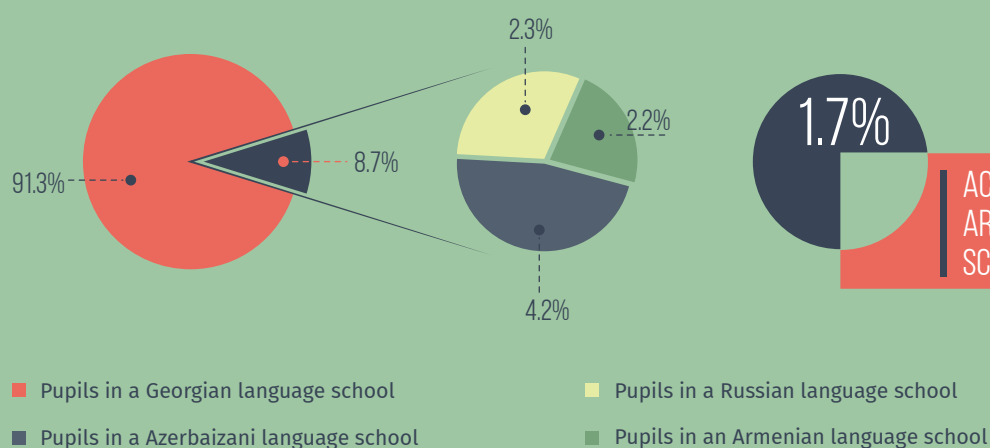
OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR

- AND IDENTIFICATION OF CHALLENGES FACED BY
- ETHNIC MINORITIES AND SOCIALLY VULNERABLE GROUPS



In 2021, spending on education, science and vocational training was approximately GEL 2.2 billion, 3.6% of GDP, with 1.2% of the spending going to inclusive education in 2021.

13.2% of the Georgian population are ethnic minorities. As per 2021/22 data, there are 54,325 students in 207 non-Georgian schools.



1.7%

ACCORDING TO 2021/22 DATA, THERE ARE 10,684 PUPILS WITH SEN IN SCHOOLS.



VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- ◆ In 2021, 250 students from ethnic minorities were enrolled in vocational institutions, which is 17 times higher than in 2016.
- ◆ In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only 164 students with SEN were enrolled in vocational schools (-37% year-on-year). The same figure increased to 201 in 2021.
- ◆ At the same time, the share of students with SEN among students whose status has been suspended has doubled in 2021.

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

- ◆ The number of ethnic minority students increased 5 times from 2010 to 2018.
- ◆ In 2021, 2,665 entrants registered for the non-Georgian language general skills test, which is 7% of entrants, +3 p.p. more than in 2010.
- ◆ In 2021, the unemployment rate among the labor force with higher education in Georgia was 15.5%, which is much higher than OECD (6.1%) and EU (5.5%) countries.



CHALLENGES FACING ETHNIC MINORITIES

Language barrier - due to the pandemic, in 2020, the number of people wishing to study the Georgian language decreased to 2,059 (-42%,YoY)

Insufficient number of teachers and low qualifications, e.g. in 2018-2022, 309 teacher vacancies remained unfilled

Low employment rate in the public sector due to possible discrimination

Low quality of textbook translation

High dropout rate due to early marriage and seasonal jobs

CHALLENGES FACING PERSONS WITH SEN

There is a lack of infrastructure adapted to the needs of students with SEN in educational institutions

An insufficient number of special teachers, while the number of students with SEN increases at a 52% CAGR over the last 10 years

Lack of necessary resources in resource rooms

Absence of a psychologist in schools, which exacerbates the problems caused by COVID-19

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ More financial resources must be allocated to the education sector.
- ◆ **Assess the specific needs of teachers**, so that their training is carried out according to these needs.
- ◆ It is important to **increase the number and availability of Georgian language courses**.
- ◆ In order **to solve the problem of textbooks**, it is necessary to involve a philologist and a subject teacher.
- ◆ It is necessary to conduct **an information campaign** on early marriage as a barrier to education for young people.
- ◆ To involve both ethnic minorities and persons with SEN in economic activities, it is necessary to **provide internship and employment programs**.
- ◆ It is necessary to **ensure the contracture of infrastructure and adapt it according to the needs of persons with SEN and PWD**. Additionally, **there should be a psychologist and a speech therapist in schools**.
- ◆ It is important to plan and conduct **events that will increase parents' involvement in the educational process**.



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