REPORT 350.org
IN EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA
Effective January 1, 2021, 350.org will end program activities in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).

Over the last few years, our people power climate movement has become a powerful force to build an inclusive, equitable, and diverse environment for active people working to tackle climate change in EECCA. We have changed public opinion about climate change. We know about it, hear about it, and join the green transformation.

In 2009, when 350.org was formed, we thought that creating a climate movement through the Days of Action would force governments around the world to keep CO2 levels below 350 parts per million in the atmosphere. Hence our name, as you know.

However, when climate negotiations between governments did not achieve their goal from year to year, we realized that politicians would not make concessions if we did not put pressure on them and push them to action, involving more people. To change everything, we need everyone.

We began to directly oppose the fossil fuel industry. In Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as in Ukraine, we have worked in particular to reduce CO2 emissions and adapt to urban climate change and set up inspirational renewable energy goals for communities.

You can read more about the history of 350.org in EECCA on our RU and UKR websites. All training materials, documents, manuals will always be available.

We have grown and evolved as part of a climate movement that builds a world free from fossil fuels, conducted climate leadership programs and campaigns on urban climate strategies, the transition to 100% renewable energy till 2050, just recovery from the coronavirus crisis, the Green Deal and a Green Economy transformation. You will find out more about our common achievements in this 2017-2020 EECCA report.

Together we raised climate awareness in Ukraine for the last three years from about 23% of people to over 60% of people. In Kyiv, where we worked on the City Climate Strategy in the past, awareness has raised in 93% of people. 63% of them have changed their attitude to climate change and 30% are ready to take action. We’ve made it possible through our organizing, mobilizing and campaigning for Cities for Life, 100% RE till 2050, Just Recovery and a Green Deal in Ukraine and broadly in the EECCA region. We believe that the social impact we have achieved together will continue.

We first started climate campaigning and organizing training and climate leadership program “Activate the Energy” which have become a replicating success. We co-created an Energy Transition coalition in Ukraine of 7 organizations and 1 city council now and we believe they will continue a remarkable effort of energy transition to a clean renewable energy and towards a Green Deal implementation. Created and nourished strategic partnerships in Ukraine, Georgia, Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, which we believe will bring a real change in climate leadership.

In March 2019 we’ve been communication partners with the Green Pact in Sustainable Finance Forum and enhanced the public discourse with keeping fossil fuels in the ground, developing the green economy and discussed the bank investments into fossil fuels in EECCA. We believe that this work will continue.

And now we are grateful to everyone with whom we were building the ambitious climate future free from fossil fuels.

The seeds we have sown for 350.org will grow, and we remain with you as experts on climate change, the Green Deal, climate movement development and public campaigns against fossil fuels.

Warmly, 350.org team in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: Inna Datsiuk, Yulia Melnyk (Pashkovska), Svitlana Romanko.

Friends, allies and colleagues!
FREE FROM FOSSIL FUELS - MOVEMENT BUILDING
ACTIVATE ENERGY

Large and small local projects and campaigns were implemented in 13 cities. In all, these teams held more than 80 events. More than 3000 people participated in these events. 1440 different online media outlets have written about Activate Energy.

A team from Poltava got the city council’s approval (32 out of 33 deputies) of a decision to switch to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Most of the groups that participated in the campaign continue to promote social change on the ground.

“32 out of 33 deputies in the Poltava City Council voted to switch Poltava to renewable energy sources! When we started this campaign, we thought we needed to at least make the local council understand what we wanted. Instead, we achieved an incredible result. It’s a huge emotional investment and it’s difficult to stay motivated all the time, but support from colleagues and the movement helps us stay afloat. It is difficult to single out one emotion, there were ups and downs, and exhaustion, and inspiration, and urgent overwhelming deadlines, and times when we were miraculously prepared in advance. There was everything. It was a year of growth for everyone on the team.”

ACTION DAYS / MOBILIZATIONS

350 is building a popular movement to fight climate change. Each year, the diversity of people participating in Action Days increases. In some years, we concentrated on local actions, while in others, we gathered thousands for marches in Kyiv. These events increase visibility, expand our movement, and bolster local groups in order to increase pressure on politicians.

In 2017, more than 700 people in 15 cities and 5 countries of the region took part in Action Days. 120 activists in Kyiv in a single day made improvements to the public square, which is illuminated by the sun’s energy.

In 2018, Zhytomyr Mayor Sergii Sukhomlyn, Chortkiv Mayor Volodymyr Shmatko, and Kamianets-Podilsky City Council Secretary Dmytro Maloveny also joined the action. Additionally, more than 1000 people joined 21 actions in 17 cities and villages of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia.

In 2019, the largest climate march in Ukraine’s history, bringing together 2000 activists. The Minister of Energy and Environment attended the event and made a public statement about Ukraine’s transition to low-carbon growth. The Rozsadnyk (Nursery) Climate festival, with 172 participants, took place on the heels of the action, one day later.

In 2020, the 350.org team supported a Merefa-based group of activists who have been fighting against local gas production since 2012. Three brave women - Elena Beriozkina, Natalya Ryabykha, and Tatiana Osmak - organized a movement to resist Ukrainian oligarch Vadim Novinsky’s gas production company “Ukrayinzovbudotok” and their subcontractor “Bilorusnafta”. Local residents defended their right to drinking water, which had begun to disappear from wells. There were many attempts to intimidate and denigrate activists. In particular, they were called “separatists” and “agents of the Kremlin” because of their opposition to gas production. Such comparisons outrage the activists, since Merefaans are proud of their Cossack spirit and are simply trying to defend their right to a safe tomorrow. They organized protests and mobilized local deputies, who approved a ban on gas production in the area, the first of its kind in Ukraine.

The people of Merefa are ready to fight until victory is achieved. The 350.org team shared the story of this resistance with Ukraine, the world, and the Minister of the Environment in particular.
Powershift is an annual forum for young people that unites various climate change topics, where activists meet, get inspired, and develop skills. In 2017, the forum, held in Ivano-Frankivsk, focused on urbanism. In 2018, the forum came to Kyiv and brought together 100 activists representing different areas of the environmental movement: climate change, a just transition, waste management, vegetarianism and veganism, and eco-villages. The forum included an Action Day. In 2019, Vinnytsia hosted the forum. During the event, 100 activists summarized the results of a year of the Activate Energy campaign and planned the climate movement’s actions for the next year.

On April 3, 2018, the 350.org team couldn’t remain indifferent to the powerful Fridays For Future youth movement. We supported the Friday Strikes for Climate activists throughout Ukraine: we organized a trip to Lausanne for sharing experience and 3 meetings (educational weekend, strategic planning, and communication training). In total, we supported groups from 11 cities. There were also dozens of hours of personal communication by phone, online, and live.

As a result, 5 Ukrainian cities joined worldwide FFF actions in September 2019.

In 2018, 350.org took part in the international climate talks at COP 24, which took place in Katowice, Poland. We brought 6 activists from 3 countries to the negotiations, because Polish authorities detained six others at the border. We organized two Climate Hub events, held a press conference, and carried out a campaign to protect the rights of public observers at COP 24. Others heard and expressed support for a statement from 350.org and CAN International. The Commissioner for Human Rights prepared a draft resolution to prevent similar incidents in the future. We also provided legal support to the activists detained at the border and published a video of the outcome.

We organized a Climate Hub discussion with officials from the cities of Zhytomyr, Chortkiv and Kutaisi on the transition to 100% renewable energy sources. 50 people from various countries participated. The discussion covered the power of the people, public pressure on local authorities to end the era of fossil fuels through the promotion of environmentally friendly energy solutions, the commitments of five cities in the EECCA region to switch to 100% renewable energy by 2050, specific measures in the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP), and a presentation of key steps for a just energy transition in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. The stats: 4 mayors from Ukraine and Georgia, 1 expert of the Covenant of Mayors in Ukraine, 2 mayoral representatives from Polish cities, 6 videos about energy solutions in Ukrainian cities.

We organized a youth climate leadership workshop in the Climate Hub with online participants Maria Kolesnikova (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) and Nugzar Kokhreidze (Kutaisi, Georgia), Diana Popfalushi (Lviv, Ukraine), and Dmitrii Zakharkulikin (Chelyabinsk, Russia), who shared their experience in climate leadership and public pressure campaigns.

Effective Communication Heroes was a three-day training held in 2019 in Odessa. At this event, 22 people learned to understand the role of communication in a project, how to speak charismatically and clearly in interviews, and how to write “powerful texts.”
CITIES FOR LIFE

In 2017, Campaigning School brought together 20 activists from 10 different cities for 4 days to deepen their knowledge and develop campaigning skills using 350.org campaigns and other successful international experience as examples.

Cities for Life is a campaign to support activists in three cities (Kyiv, Mogilev, St. Petersburg) who have worked to improve the living conditions in their cities by developing a climate strategy. In Kyiv, they managed to sign a memorandum with deputies and city council officials.

CAMPAIGNING SCHOOL

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GREEN CAMP

Summer Camp is an annual event for climate activists and climate movement supporters to relax, be renewed, and network. The camp fosters the formation of unexpected acquaintances and ideas that are brought to life through actions and campaigns.

In 2018, we networked for 7 days and helped enhance the skills of 50 people, specifically, a team of Zhytomyr City Council employees. This probably played a role in the mayor’s announcement about the switch to 100% renewable energy in autumn of that same year.

In 2019, the 7-day camp was held in the Dragobrat tract, in the Carpathian Mountains. The camp attracted 100 activists from 30 cities and 6 countries (Ukraine, Georgia, Czech Republic, Germany, Russia, Colombia). The highlight of the camp was the action to protect the Svydovets mountain range from construction of a new resort. The camp itself was planned and conducted in conjunction with local groups fighting to protect the Svydovets. Famed Ukrainian singer Sasha Polozhinsky, a camp participant, helped record a video and song about this struggle.

CITIZEN’S FORUM “ZHASHYL UPGRADE”

The forum “Zhashyl upGRADE” took place in Bishkek in June 2018. Participants of the forum drafted the petition on recommendations on the preservation of greenery in Bishkek.

Participants of the event decided on changing the format of communication with city officials to “Don’t throw a problem at me but suggest a solution to me”. Activists formulated the messages – suggestions that will help to resolve the problem of a fast diminishing of the capital’s green zones.

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10 PEOPLE FROM 10 CITIES

1 YEAR

2 CAMPS

15 NETWORKING MEETUPS

14 DAYS

6 TRAININGS

150 ACTIVISTS

3 CITIES IN 3 COUNTRIES

7 WORKSHOPS AND ROUNDTABLES

1 URBAN ECOFORUM

43 PARTNERS

7 ACTIONS

970 ATTENDEES
100% RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR ALL
In 2018, when the 350.org team launched the “100% RES” campaign in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region, not a single city had the goal of switching to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Renewable energy sources were on the agenda mainly of public organizations and businesses. In particular, there was no structured state policy on green energy in Ukraine, except for the “green tariff”. That’s why when we agreed with the mayor of Zhytomyr to sign a memorandum on cooperation between 350.org and the city, it was an information bomb. After all, Zhytomyr became the first city in Eastern Europe and the whole EECCA region, which has publicly announced its goal to switch to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Then there were memorandums with the mayors of the Ukrainian cities of Chortkiv, Lviv, Kamianets-Podilskyi and the Georgian city of Kutaisi. Over time, they became real climate leaders in Ukrainian and Georgian politics.

**PLAN FOR KUTAISI’S TRANSITION**

In 2020, the first plan in the entire Caucasus for a city’s transition to 100% renewable energy sources emerged in Georgia. It was created for the city of Kutaisi, which 350.org signed a memorandum of cooperation with in 2018. According to the modeling, Zhytomyr is technically capable of switching to 100% renewable energy by 2050! Three of four scenarios demonstrated this result. Use of wind, solar power, and biomass will dominate the city’s energy mix. Energy efficiency will also play a key role. In the fall of 2020, the authors presented the plan to the mayor and his team. Subsequent city funding programs and SECAP plans will implement this document.

Thus, Zhytomyr is the first city in Eastern Europe to have a plan for transitioning to 100% renewable energy sources. Our team hopes that the document will also become a key to finding investments in the city’s renewable energy and climate change adaptation. You can learn more about Zhytomyr’s energy transition scenarios and their cost at the 350.org website.

**PLAN FOR ZHYTOMYR’S TRANSITION**

In 2018, Zhytomyr became the first city in Eastern Europe to announce its goal to switch to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Zhytomyr Mayor Sergii Sukhomlin signed a memorandum of cooperation with 350.org. Even in 2019 this collaboration saw us begin joint work on the plan for the city’s transition to 100% renewable energy sources.

Because this is a complex technical document that includes mathematical modeling, we invited Oleksandr Dychuk and Andriy Semenyuk, researchers from the Institute of Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, to help. The Zhytomyr City Council, especially Tetiana Zyatikova, assisted in gathering data. The research modeled four scenarios of how city of Zhytomyr’s energy infrastructure might develop, covering all sectors of the economy, including households.

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**MEMORANDUMS WITH CITIES**

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**IN 2020, 2.5 YEARS AFTER OUR CAMPAIGN BEGAN, WE HAVE ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING:**

**+8 CITIES**

7 cities in Ukraine and 1 city in Georgia have signed a memorandum with 350.org and announced goals to switch to 100% renewable energy by 2050.

**+1 ASSOCIATION**

The Association of Small Cities of Ukraine signed a memorandum with 350.org to facilitate its member cities’ switch to 100% renewable energy sources.

**SUPPORT RES**

In the Ukraine Green Deal, the state promised to support cities that have the goal of switching to 100% renewable energy sources.

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In the spring of 2019, the 350.org team held two press tours to Zhytomyr and Vinnytsia, two Ukrainian cities that are energy stars. We wanted to show journalists and readers that Ukraine has already achieved a lot when it comes to renewable energy.

In Zhytomyr, we visited the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences division that cultivates energy crops, and got to know one of Ukraine’s most progressive mayors, Sergii Sukhomlin, who explained how Zhytomyr is moving towards the goal of 100% renewable energy. We also took a look at the operation of home solar power systems, purchased under the regional renewable energy support program.

In Vinnytsia, city council representatives showed press tour participants how the principles of sustainable mobility work in the city: bike rentals, bike paths, trams. We also visited KNESS, one of Europe’s most cutting-edge solar panel manufacturing plants.

The 350.org team believes that media outlets, MPs, and activists really need these familiarization tours. They demonstrate the important achievements happening in cities and villages and inspire others to create change.

The prospect of transitioning to 100% renewable energy has created an ambitious goal and united national organizations in working towards this goal. We are sincerely grateful to our partners from the Energy Transition Coalition, Ukrainian Climate Network, and Heinrich Böll Foundation’s Kyiv Office for their joint achievements.

Over the past two years, the 350.org team has invested a lot of resources in media and strategic work with the cities that signed the Memorandum.

The city of Zhytomyr has become a star in the battle against climate change. Mayor Sergii Sukhomlin was invited to participate in a summit of mayors in San Francisco (GCAS 2018), the Ministerial Conference of the 9th International Forum on Energy and Sustainable Development (Kiev 2018), the International Mayors Summit, and the UN Forum of Mayors (Geneva 2019). Experts and other authoritative international publications have featured Zhytomyr in articles. With the full cooperation of city officials and our financial and organizational support and expertise, the plan to transition to 100% energy from renewable energy sources by 2050 was developed specifically for Zhytomyr.

The city’s media attention has attracted international donors and investments in the renewable energy sector.

Other cities in Ukraine are also more recognized as climate change leaders. The Mayor of Chortkiv, Volodymyr Shmatko, honoredly represented Ukrainian climate leadership at a workshop during COP24 2018 in Katowice (Poland) and during the Climate Ambitions of Cities Forum on November 28-29 in Lviv.

In Poltava, under pressure from the community, our Activate Energy climate change leadership program, and NGO Ekoltava, 22 city councilors voted in 2019 to approve the signing and implementation of the Memorandum on the city’s transition to 100% renewable energy sources by 2050.

Everyone in Ukraine has learned about this, because these changes are happening from the bottom up, in communities, not just in high offices. The power of the people is the main driving force behind democratic change.

Thanks to grant assistance to partner organizations, we assessed Chortkiv’s ability to switch to 100% renewable energy sources, analyzed public opinion on the Sustainable Energy Development and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) for the cities Mykolaiv, Lviv, and Poltava, held sessions on climate change adaptation and the transition to renewable energy in Lviv at the International Lviv Eco Forum 2019, and also held Ukraine’s first Climate Ambitions of Cities Forum, together with our 15 strategic partners.

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In 2019, the 350.org team provided financial and expert support for the “Renewable Energy Without the State” Festival, held in Moscow.

This was the first event of its kind in Russia, where activists, including Fridays For Future Russia, entrepreneurs, journalists, and scientists gathered to discuss problems and find a solution for the country’s energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

Two-thirds of Russian territory lacks electrical networks, and residents in these areas receive power mainly from gasoline generators. This means that wind and solar power plants could be an excellent solution for supplying electricity to Russians. Above all, Russia’s transition to renewable energy and its abandonment of fossil fuels are a big step towards reduced CO2 emissions, something that will affect the whole world.

About 200 participants spent 4 days looking for ways to move Russia from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The festival consisted of lectures, a round of open discussions, and interactive sessions.

The event was organized by the Goal Number Seven Association of Energy Market Participants, Heinrich Böll Foundation in Russia, and 350.org in Russia.

**MOSCOW FESTIVAL**

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**CLIMATE AMBITIOUS OF CITIES FORUM**

In 2019, the joint efforts of 350.org, Ukrainian Climate Network, and the Heinrich Böll Foundation organized Ukraine’s first Climate Ambitions of Cities Forum.

The forum had 200 members, including 53 representatives of various Ukrainian municipalities. The other members were representatives of the public sector, business, and international technical assistance projects.

The main goals of the forum were:
- to loudly and jointly declare local climate policy and its holistic nature
- to holistically discuss the mechanism and plan for transitioning to 100% renewable energy sources and climate change adaptation in specific cities (in particular, we presented the initial groundwork for Zhytomyr’s planned transition to 100% renewable energy sources, which was created with 350.org’s support)
- to hear about results and challenges from the mayors of the cities that are leading the energy transition in Ukraine
- to test new interaction formats to achieve fair and equal dialogue between government officials, the public, and the business community.

During the Forum, two new communities, Trostyanets and Baranivka, announced their goal to switch to 100% renewable energy sources by 2050, and the Association of Small Cities of Ukraine endorse the roadmap towards renewable energy sources. Each of these parties signed a memorandum of cooperation with 350.org. More than 20 cities supported the forum’s climate declaration.

**RES FORUM IN NORTHWEST RUSSIA**


The Forum’s main purpose is to discuss the possibilities of introducing state-of-the-art green technologies (renewable energy sources, charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, energy efficient technologies, and more) in the Northwest Federal District and to conduct a two-day training for 20 activists from all over Russia on transitioning to 100% renewable energy resources before 2050 and climate and renewable energy campaigning. The training included sessions entitled “Russian and international experience of public campaigns for climate protection”, “The past, present and future of renewable energy in Russia”, and “Developing an eco-activist’s leadership potential”, as well as the “Project” simulation game, during which participants honed skills required for interacting with various stakeholders and analyzed the typical stereotypes.

150
THERE WERE 150 PARTICIPANTS

**200** members, including 53 representatives of various municipalities

**15** number of partners

**30** number of participants

**2** press conferences

**2,000,000** media coverage reaching

**38** media publications
JUSTICE RECOVERY
AND GREEN DEAL
The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated social, economic and climate tensions across the region. Governments and Ministries of Environmental Protection and Energy have begun to abandon Ukraine’s “green” transformation before 2050.

We created a plan for a new campaign entitled “A Just Recovery from the Coronavirus Crisis,” and were the first to raise awareness about this topic in public discourse.

A fair and green economic and environmental recovery is an opportunity for governments to transition to climate-neutral, green economies by 2050. This transition is needed to solve the natural disaster crisis, the environmental protection and biodiversity crisis, and to maintain economic positions, while simultaneously reducing natural resource consumption and creating fair conditions for small and medium-sized businesses, and “green” jobs rather than support for the coal industry.

During the campaign, we submitted proposals to the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada’s Committee on Environmental Policy and Environmental Management about development of a single comprehensive strategy - a Green Deal and a fair exit from the crisis, and about the need to recognize climate-related financial risks, combining them with nature-based solutions to create the infrastructure and conditions necessary for implementing the Green Deal in Ukraine. Ukraine needs effective, end-to-end and industry-specific strategies for climate change adaptation, which will become part of the state’s unified Green Deal. We also made proposals on Green Deal requirements in voting on the platform provided by Greenpeace and partners of Russia’s Green Deal.

**IN 6 MONTHS, WE:**

Our main requirement is using five principles of a just response to the crisis:

1. **AFFORDABLE AND FREE MEDICAL SERVICES FOR ONE AND ALL**
2. **ECONOMIC AID PRIMARILY AND DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC**
3. **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTREPRENEURS**
4. **THE PROVIDED AID MUST FOSTER RESILIENCE AGAINST FUTURE CRISIS, ESPECIALLY THE CLIMATE CRISIS**
5. **IT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS, MAINTAIN COMMUNITY WITHOUT BORDERS, AND RESIST AUTOCRACY**

We received replies from the governments of Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. All Russian Ministries responded. We discussed the responses [here](#).

**GLOBAL GREEN GRANTS**

Eleven organizations in countries of the region received fairly allocated grants totaling USD 80,000 from 350.org and spent them through the Global Green Grants program.

The general direction is ending the era of fossil fuels: raising awareness about climate change, popularizing climate solutions (clean energy for all), and expanding the climate movement.
The statement on the transition to 100% RES is a very important commitment to us. We want to communicate to citizens what they can do for the transition and which benefits it could bring them. People see real projects. Therefore, pilot projects in the RE sector in Kutaisi have to emerge. Cooperating with 350.org is important to us because we are the first city in the Caucasian region committed to switch to RE. Kutaisi is a very old city; we resemble the ancient Georgian culture. Our city is a connection with Asia and Europe. And now we have become an example for the whole EECCA region. The transition to RE and reduction of CO2 emissions – these are the first promises that local authorities can make to citizens. The first step is a concrete scenario of the transition and the implementation of measures envisaged by the scenario together with donor organizations.

We are very grateful to RICDOG organizations (Georgia) and 350.org Georgia’s leader, Nugzar Kokhreidze, the organizations Gamardzhoba (Georgia), Ecoproject, Green Network (Belarus), 350.org Russia’s leader Dmitry Zakaryukin, Coal Number Seven, Friends of the Baltic, Bellona Foundation, Greenpeace (Russia), Ukrainian Youth Climate Association, Ecoclub, Ecoaction, Ekotava, PLATO, Khmelnytsky Energy Cluster, Ecoclub Green Wave (Ukraine), Move Green, UNISON (Kyrgyzstan), participants of the Climate Leadership Program, the CLEEN network, as well as Olga Boyko and Tatiana Shauro from CAN EECCA, and our other partners over years as we have pursued and jointly achieved ambitious strategic goals!

NINO TVALTADZE
VICE-MAYOR OF KUTAISI