

Letter #104
July 16, 2018

To Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia

Letter of Partnership

Founded in 1985, U.S. based non-profit, PH International (legally registered as Project Harmony, Inc.) has been an international leader delivering effective, high-quality programming throughout Eurasia and the Caucasus for more than 30 years. PH International's mission is to build strong global communities by fostering civic engagement, facilitating cross-cultural learning, and increased opportunities in the digital age.

PH International has extensive experience of working with schools in different countries to improve school-based civic education and democratic citizenship competencies of students. With the financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) since 2010, PH International has worked with more than 1,000 schools in Georgia to improve the quality of civic education and to introduce internationally proven efficient strategies in teaching school-based civic education. PH International currently implements USAID-funded Civic Education "Momavlis Taoba" (MT) program in Georgia. MT aims to promote greater civic engagement of young people and enhance the role of youth in promoting transparent and accountable Governance and the national and local levels. To achieve this goal, MT works with 230 schools nationwide to enhance school-based civic education and helps to prepare the students in grades 9-12 for democratic citizenship. Program activities include civics teachers' trainings and fostering teachers' professional development, development of high-quality civics supplemental textbooks and resources for schools and provision of practical opportunities for students to apply the civics knowledge into their everyday lives (through mini-grant projects and school-based civics clubs).

Creation of the linkages between higher academic institutions and the schools is essential for fostering civics teachers' professional development. Such linkages can be established through school-university partnerships in research projects in order to assess the most efficient educational strategies for teaching democratic citizenship. Teachers, involved in MT program are motivated to work together with the professors of the Ilia State University to research to which extent civic education contributes to the development of democratic citizenship competencies in students and which pedagogical strategies are highly efficient in achieving the most important goals of civic education.

PH International, through its network of schools and nine implementing organizations of MT program, is ready and willing to partner with the professors of Ilia State University during the implementation of the research project **"Democratic Citizenship in Schools of Georgia: Challenges and Avenues for Development"**. PH International will share with researchers its experience of teaching democratic citizenship in Georgia since 2010, as well as its experience of civic education programs in other countries, will provide information about the lessons learned and successes achieved, will connect researchers with students and teachers in the selected schools throughout Georgia and will support piloting of the agreed upon strategies in schools. At the final stage of the research project, PH International will be involved in dissemination of the research results among teachers and will contribute to the final conference.

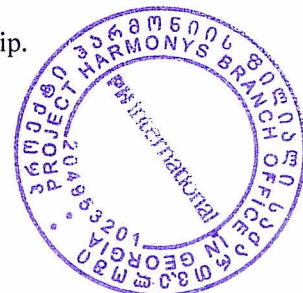
Please let me know if you have any further inquiries about this prospective partnership.

Sincerely yours,

Marina Ushveridze



Chief of Party, Momavlis Taoba (Future Generation) Program, PH International



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