

Preface from Mayor

Establishment of Zestafoni as a city and municipality is relatively new, about 150 years ago, it is related result of the process to the acquisition and realization of manganese ore, ie mainly industrial production.

Despite of this, municipality has a special role and place, both in Imereti and in whole Georgia, not only by Ferro-Alloys or Cables Factory, also with traditional farming and culture. It can be said that Zestafoni is one of the cultural centers of Imereti region as well, with distinctive achivments in theatrical, musical and artistic fields, with its special character, hospitality, and at the same time - with winemaking, pottery and culinary traditions.

In our deepest belief, Zestafoni municipality can develop its industrial potential and revive and give new impuls to the development of traditional farming and entrepreneurship. In this context it is very important in the initiative of the "Mayors for Economic Growth" (M4EG) Zestafoni Municipality involvement. Moreover, participation in this initiative is equally honored and responsible for us, the challenge and the expectation of concrete positive results.

I would like to emphasize that the Zestafoni Municipality's local economic development plan is developed based on the involvement and cooperation of the municipality, city councils, different sectors of the business, CSO and the representatives of the education and science spher. We are actively contributing and will do everything in the future to such cooperation to succeed and develop.

The implementation of the local economic development plan should stimulate not only the socio-economic development of the municipality, but also as a precondition for the municipality and the sustainable development of the region and it must become, one of the facts of raising public awareness and getting closer to Europe.

I express my readiness to implement the Zestafoni Municipality Local Economic Development Plan prepared within the framework of the "Mayors Economic Growth" initiative, and I hope that our cooperation with the EU will be further strengthened in the future.

Zestafoni Municipality Mayor: Kakhaber Makhatadze

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1. Executive Summary

It is possible to revive and give new impetus to the development of traditional farming and entrepreneurship in Zestafoni. In this context it is very important of involvement Zestaponi Municipality in the initiative of the "Mayors for Economic Growth".

Zestafoni is one of the most picturesque and unique municipalities of Imereti, with convenient geographical location, good climatic conditions and sufficient natural resources. Here are the ancient traditions of winemaking,