

By January 1, 2018, workforce in Municipality was 57.8% of the total population (33 309 people). Among them female - 47.9% of the total workforce (15 950 people), males - 52.1% of total workforce (17 359 people). Average age of citizens living in municipality is 70 years (75 years of women, 65 years of men).

The population of the municipality has decreased by 16 372 people compared to 1989, which is 22.12% of the population, and it is the direct result of the migration made by social, economical and political crises of the 90s; Still migration is going, but less. It should also be noted that the largest share of migration comes from those who are leaving country, as for internal migration mainly involves migration to Tbilisi. (Although accurate estimate of the current level of migration is difficult).

Zestafoni self-government is well understood of the importance of the development of the economy in the municipality. Moreover, it has been described as one of the priority directions. The development of the economy implies financial growth, including increase of budget, as well as the reduction of social challenges and raise life level.

The initiative "Mayors for Economic Growth" for the Zestafoni Municipality is a serious basis for developing substantially and better the local governance system and better partnership with business sectors, CSO and with all interested sides.

In addition, the local partnership attains importance to the EU initiative to assist the municipality. Such initiatives from the European Union are getting Georgia closer to Europe. This initiative will establish European values in Georgia, this is more important for the country with such situations as we are, where more than 20% of the territories are occupied by neighboring country, which significantly holds economical progress.

Our local economic development plan (LEDP) has been developed specifically for initiation of "Mayors for Economic Growth". It should be noted that the LEDP plan is in principle compatible with Georgia's Social-Economic Development Strategy - "Georgia 2020", also it is compatible with already existing Zestafoni municipality's medium-term development document, which was developed by the UNDP contractor organization of the Association of Young Economists of Georgia (AYEG) in 2017. Also it is compatible with local budget parameters for 2018 developed by Zestafoni municipality.

In turn, the Economic Development Plan (LEDP), unlike the above mentioned documents, is not a comprehensive document and is focused only on the development of private entrepreneurship and municipality economy, and is oriented supporting activities in order to improve social and economic situation and citizens employment.

The Zestafoni municipality's LEDP plan was elaborated on the basis of the requirements, principles and objectives, which are the basis for the initiative "Mayors for Economic Growth". The most important of them is active involvement of business, civil society, educational institutions and citizens work process, which will continue permanently in the course of preparation of the plan but during its implementation and monitoring period. At the same time, this direction will be priority for the municipality during its further activity.

The municipality fully agrees with the content of the local economic development plan and is ready for co-funding with other partners and donors, within the scope of the plan. At the same time, this funding will be taken into consideration in the budget of 2019-2020, according to the relevant procedures.

5. Process of Local Economic Development Plan Development

The development of the local economic development plan in the Zestafoni municipality held on accordance with the requirements, recommendations and provided textbooks for the "Mayors Economic Growth" initiative.

This process was based on the engagement, mutual respect, equality of participants and equality of rights, professionalism and the priority of the argument. At the same time, all participants sought to reach a consensus, and most of the issues were decided on the basis of this principle.

Local Partnership was established on November 5, 2017; Meetings were held every month. The name of the organizations and entities involved in the Partnership can be seen in Annex - 1, a.