

School Networks

Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia

Ana Baramia

*International Relations and Strategic Development Department
Division of EU Integration and Relations with International Organizations*

May 2025

Demographic trends

- ▶ Declining birth rate and high rate of migration from rural to urban areas;
- ▶ Enrollment increased in large cities – Tbilisi – 35%, Batumi – 100%;
- ▶ School enrolment decreased in most rural districts on average by 26% during the last 20 years;
- ▶ Number of schools – 2086;
- ▶ 2/3 of the total number are “small schools”;

Effects on education system

- ▶ Significant number of schools were closed till 2012;
- ▶ High average cost per student; according to the WB –European average;
- ▶ Qualitative gap between urban and rural schools;
- ▶ Lack of teachers in some remote areas, despite additional funding;
- ▶ Multi-grade teaching in very small schools;
- ▶ Inefficient usage of infrastructure (renovated schools with larger capacity than actual usage)

State vision on School networks

- ▶ Preserving schools in rural areas— important to support local community;
- ▶ Revision of School funding model to make it more cost effective;
- ▶ Draft new funding scheme envisages creation of school networks as well freedom of choice for schools to enter networks;
- ▶ Piloting from September 2025 in 3 urban, 3 rural and 3 mountainous schools;
- ▶ Incentives for schools to enter networks;
- ▶ Aim- to comply with authorization standards and ensure accessibility to quality education;

State vision for schools by 2030

- ▶ All schools will be authorized complying to 4 main standards:
 - Infrastructure and Equipment (hundreds of schools are currently under construction or renovation);
 - Modern curriculum adaptable to technology development with options for students (technical, humanitarian, vet etc.)
 - Qualified teachers and educational resources;
 - Good management of the schools with networks where best experience and resources are properly shared;

Thank You