
Caucasus Cooperation Foundation for Youth Development (CCFYD)

There is hope in Georgia! Hope that the country can maintain its independence. Hope that both civil society and the economy will thrive and strengthen. Young people from the area are working particularly hard to ensure that this hope can prosper. The Caucasus Cooperation Foundation for Youth Development is active in supporting these young people in their task.

«The real way to get happiness is by giving
out happiness to other people.
Try and leave this world a little better than
you found it.»

Lord Baden-Powell

The Republic of Georgia, with its capital Tbilisi, is a country in Western Asia. It is located in Transcaucasia, east of the Black Sea and south of the Greater Caucasus mountain range. In the north it is bordered by Russia and the internationally disputed states of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, in the south by Turkey and Armenia, and to the east by Azerbaijan. Geographically the country represents a seam that divides Eurasia.

The country comprises an area of 60'000 square kilometres, excluding Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and has around 4.5 million inhabitants. Its largest cities are Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Rustavi.

Mountains and foothills cover 87% of the country. The highest mountain is Mount Shkhara in the Greater Caucasus at more than 5000 metres. Georgia's longest river is the 1364 km long Kura River. Georgia has a very diverse landscape making each of its regions a unique place to visit and experience. Despite its relatively small size, its wide variety of flora and fauna are a particular attraction.



Tbilisi



Rustavi

Numerous historical sources mention Georgia as a country of «multiple languages». Moreover, Georgia is home to diverse religious denominations. Despite 97% of the population adopting the Christian Orthodox religion, the different traditions and co-existence of Catholic, Armenian, Gregorian, Islamic and Jewish places of worship are evidence of heterogeneity and tolerance towards the diversity of the Georgian nation.

Georgia is the bearer of a rich cultural and traditional heritage preserved over centuries and described in various myths and legends. The country's history can be traced back 3500 years and Christianity (the state religion) was adopted in the 4th century.

The country is considered the birthplace of wine production and the warmth of Georgian hospitality is well known. There is a strong tradition of folklore in Georgia, producing stunning and skilful performances.



**International Scout Centre Rustavi (ISCR) –
A CCFYD Project**

The main emphasis of the foundation's activities is currently focused on the International Scout Centre Rustavi (ISCR) project. CCFYD has funded a private villa in the industrial town of Rustavi, approximately 25 km south-east of the Georgian capital Tbilisi, and following a two and a half year renovation period, has transformed it into a modern international scouting centre. The main building has been augmented by further accommodation in a spacious new wing.

The new youth centre now offers space for a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. The facility is available for children and young people from Rustavi, and offers comfortable and reasonably priced accommodation, seminar and conference facilities for regional and international youth groups, schools, universities, non-governmental organisations, as well as tourists and individual travellers.



In addition, the centre has a camping area for up to 300 people. Annually the centre is used by around 1'200 people, with approximately 6'500 overnight occupancies. Young people from all over the world come together here at ISCR.

The guests originate from Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, USA.

This global dialogue and exchange of knowledge and cultures form an important step forward towards a better future together.



November 2010 – June 2013 Construction of the Centre

The International Scout Centre Rustavi (ISCR) was born out of the spirit of the Caucasus Cooperation Project (CCP).

The organisation CCP represents the combined commitment of active and former scout leaders from Switzerland and Georgia. From 2003 the organisation was responsible for initiating and carrying out diverse scouting activities and leadership training in Rustavi, and these activities led local leaders to look for a permanent venue in which to host them.

Following the purchase in 2009 of a piece of land with a dilapidated property dating back to 1949, CCFYD gave support to an initiative by members of CCP to launch a scout centre. Shortly after a donor came forward: The Caucasus Cooperation Foundation for Youth Development (CCFYD) agreed to take over the property, renovate and extend it in order to create a permanent centre for local scouting activities. The ground-breaking ceremony was held in November 2010.

On 21 June 2013 the two and a half year construction phase was rounded off with the official opening ceremony.





21 June 2013 Opening Ceremony

After a construction period of 2 years, 7 months and 19 days the centre's opening ceremony, covered by Georgian television and radio, was attended by leading representatives from all over the world. Special thanks were given to the municipality of Rustavi, the architect David Khurtsilava and the entire team of INEX Design.

The opening ceremony signified the official handing over of the property to the International Scout Centre Rustavi on condition that ISCR will run it according to the mission of the Caucasus Cooperation Foundation for Youth Development on the one hand, and in the spirit of the World Scout Movement on the other.







About CCFYD

The purpose of the charitable foundation CCFYD is to promote the holistic development of children and young people. The foundation's activities are aimed at an international level, using formal and informal education and transcultural exchange. Currently CCFYD's support is concentrated on projects for children and young people in the southern Caucasus, particularly in Georgia. CCFYD activities are politically and confessionally neutral.

LINKS

- www.ccfyd.ch
- www.iscr.ge (International Scout Centre abRustavi)
- www.ccfyd.blogspot.ch (blog ISCR)
- www.scout.ge/?lang=eng (Georgian Organisation of the Scout Movement)
- www.kisc.ch (International Scout Centre Kandersteg)