INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT KUTAISI
CONSULTING SERVICES FOR ACCOMPANYING MEASURES

Georgia

REVIEW OF COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY ACTIVITIES

2015-2019

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# Introduction

This report presents an overview of the communication and visibility activities in the period 2015 – 2019. In compliance with the ToRs the PR activities aimed mainly to promote the new integrated solid waste management system, i.e. set up campaigns about waste collection and disposal services based on the new regional landfill and to promote concepts such as separate collection and recycling. Furtherhmore the Terms of Reference state the need to review the achievements and upcoming topics and challenges on a year to year basis and propose detailed plan at the start of each year.

The initial review in 2015 showed that the PR strategy of the SWMCG needed to be defined and as part of the strategy a corporate identity (fully in line visibility guidelines of the IFI’s) was defined. All activities and publications of the SWMCG need to adhere to this identity, which was compiled in a manual.

The 2015 review also showed that the information presented did not sufficiently reflect on the real activities and achievements of the SWMCG. The following general principles for the communication approach were adopted:

* The project PR activities and communication aimed at having strong focus on strengthening positive image of SWMCG and informing the public and increasing awareness on the new waste management system, the new regional landfill Kutaisi and the project "Integrated Solid Waste Management Kutaisi".
* Key partners for communication are the 16 municipalities in the project regions with their existing communication channels and tools jointly with SWMCG and MRDI.
* Therefore the existing network and relationships between the project together with SWMCG on the one hand and the PR departments of all municipalities on the other hand will be further strengthened.
* This network will be the main framework for all future communication activities in the region. The bulk of communication activities about waste-related issues (waste collection, separation at source, recycling and waste avoidance) will have to be taken over by municipalities in future.

Early 2016 it became clear that the people in the villages near to the landfill had serious objections. Several meetings with representatives of these people were organised in an effort to understand their objections and to answer to their concerns. In spite of the efforts of the SWMCG and the AMC, these objections and concerns have remained till today.

In chapter 2 a full overview of the PR activities is presented, including actions to address the objections and concerns of the population.

In chapter 3 an overview of the main objections and concerns are presented, based on information from the SWMCG, own observations of the AMC and a fairly detailed press review (see annex 1 for the press review sources). Noted is that the people did not use their legal right to present their objections and concerns at the formal public hearing for the EIA, nor did any of them appeal against the decision on EIA by MEPA.

In chapter 4 the objections and concerns are once more reviewed and recommendations for the next PR actions (2019 – 2021) defined. These recommendations also consider that in other regions similar objections and concerns may be raised.

# The Terms of Reference for PR and communication activities

The TOR for the Project "Integrated Solid Waste Management Kutaisi - Consulting Services for Accompanying Measures" set two main topics and related activities for PR and communication. Please find in the table below the respective paragraphs as per Terms of Reference:

|  |
| --- |
| 1. *Support SWMCG's PR Activities*

*SWMCG intends to improve its public relations (PR) activities. The Consultant shall support this endeavour by:* * *Developing a comprehensive PR concept for SWMCG*
* *Developing a Corporate Identity concept with logo, PR material and media activities etc., if applicable*
* *Setting up or strengthening of a Public Relations unit with provision of requirements for staff and operation*
* *Preparation public relation campaigns (Fundamentals of PR, media relations, leveraging social media for PR; etc.)*
1. *Support Awareness Raising and Information Management for Relevant Topics (develop and implement public awareness campaigns in the project region)*

*The success of the project depends to a large degree on the cooperation of the civil society. Thus, it is of highest importance that the population in the project area is properly informed about the environmental, economic and social impacts of the planned waste treatment and disposal facilities as well as the required changes in their attitudes and personal behaviour.* *Besides the proper information of the population about the intended project activities, it is intended to carry out public awareness raising activities for important issues such as littering, waste separation or recycling.**Public awareness raising activities in the project region require the cooperation and contributions of the Ministry of Environment, the SWMCG and the concerned municipalities in order to be efficient and effective. It is essential to ensure coordinated activities of the three main stakeholders. Therefore, project campaigns should be carried out as joint activities according to the following approach:* * *Determine the topic of an awareness raising campaign*
* *Develop a comprehensive concept for the campaign. The concept shall specify the message, identify the main target groups and the approach to address them, specify the communication channel and describe the required contributions from MoENRP, the SWMCG and the concerned municipalities in the project region.*
* *Develop a work plan with a corresponding budget*
* *Execute and monitor the work plan activities in close cooperation with the stakeholders.*
 |

## What has been done until now – 2015 - 2019

* Work on PR and communication started effectively in September 2015 and focused on supporting SWMCG's PR activities. The PR and communication strategy for the company was drafted and finalised in November 2015.
* The staff of the SWMCG PR department received training on diverse topics (use of Facebook, use of photos, story writing, content production, use of info graphics, press monitoring and press review)
* SWMCG PR department work evaluation document : roles/ tasks/ responsibilities/ capacity/ job descriptions
* Corporate Identity Manual ( December, 2016)
* Specific communication activities referring to the overall project "Integrated Solid Waste Management Kutaisi" were started in spring 2016. On the occasion of public meetings with the citizens of Chognari the first project Newsletter was produced, presenting the project, all involved partners and information about environmental protection measures that are applied for new modern landfills complying with international standards.
* Further support was given to the company by completely re-working the company website and presenting comprehensively the company objectives, achievements, activities and future plans
* In September 2016 a seminar for journalists from Imereti region was organised, presenting them the project, the National Waste Management Strategy and the role and the objectives of Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia.
* Based on the questions raised by the journalists a comprehensive document was prepared entitled "Questions and answers about waste and waste management".
* For the first workshop on "Municipal Waste Management Planning" three large size information panels (2m x 1,5 m) were prepared presenting i) environmental protection measures used for modern landfills, ii) the project "Integrated Solid Waste Management Kutaisi" and iii) the Solid Waste Management Company and its main achievements. The workshop was held on 17 and 18 November 2016 in Tskaltubo, with representatives from all 16 municipalities from the regions Imereti and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti.
* Public lecture on the topic: ‘Sustainable Waste Dilemmas -practical examples on Imereti region’ lead by “Integrated Solid Waste Management System - Kutaisi" project Team Leader Mr Rene Boesten on June 15, 2017 Lecture at Kutaisi State University
* In July / August 2017 the second Newsletter was produced
* Development of project promo materials (bags, USB sticks, notebooks), mainly for the journalist / media briefing in September 2017
* On 13 September 2017 media briefing for journalists / local media representatives was organised in Best Western Hotel, Kutaisi.

Topics introduced:

* + Short summary of project activities,
	+ Company activities. Disseminating Newsletter, Journalist Toolkit, project branded materials
* Press event: Announcing Company’s policy on Health and Safety issue/ handling diplomas
* During two training sessions (14-15 June 2017 and 14 September 2017) 16 Municipality PR employees were briefed on public awareness and communication. **The participants were introduced to:**
	+ The principals of the communication plan.
	+ Goals / Key objectives/ Indicators
	+ Target Groups-audiences / Stakeholders
	+ Activities/ tools of communication

After identifying those key aspects by participants, the experts tried to moderate discussion on each topic and with the input of municipalities drafted a communication plan template that could be used as a sample for each municipality to produce individual communication plans.

* Production of 3 VIDEOS/ RADIO SPOT (2018):
	+ Video #1 –New Waste Management System/Roles and responsibilities
	+ Video #2 – Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia/ responsibilities and achievements
	+ Video #3 – Kutaisi New Regional Landfill/ How it’s built and why is it safe for environment
	+ Production of one 1 radio spot
* Starting from March 1, 2019 placement of all 3 videos and one radio spot was carried out I 2 regional TV Channels for 3 months (Rioni; Zari; Radio Rioni; Dzveli Qalaki)
* Production of Newsletter #3
* Developing complaint mechanism/ hot line and its integration into SWMCG web page (June 2018)
* **Workshop on building up an effective separate collection and recycling system in Georgia”** attended by stakeholders, relevant Ministries, representatives of Municipalities and recycling companies. (October 30, 2018)
* Organizing high level event: Signing ceremony of Kutaisi New Regional Landfill Construction contract (January 24,2019)
* Production of special newsletter for Municipalities #1 (February 2019)
* Staring from March 1, 2019 in frames of 3-month awareness campaign distribution of Newsletters has been organized in all 16 Municipalities, covering whole population of Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (on going)
* Meeting with 16 Municipality PR offices / discussing 3-month PR Campaign plan, their roles and responsibilities – February 12, 2019
* Forming social (Facebook) platform of 16 municipalities +SWMCG
* Developing media plan for SWMCG participation in various TV/Radio programs during 3 months awareness raising campaign period
* Developing Social media campaign plan and materials (ongoing)
* Developing Teacher’s training material for 16 municipalities (ongoing)
* The project PR experts have initiated and supported the SWMCG PR unit in development of:
	+ mailing list of stakeholders;
	+ Introduction mailing text and branded visual identity

The SWMCG will regularly provide project-related information and its progress to stakeholders/ media by distributing online publications: press-releases; newsletters etc. through emails.

# objections and concerns of the population

The population’s protests in Chognari and nearby villages focus on the following topics:

1. Water contamination – The population is using nearby spring water and water wells for the living. They are certain that after our project implementation their water is going to be affected and contaminated that will dire ctly affect their health. In addition, people state that the source of spring water comes from the hill that is located right up the planned landfill site and it is a high risk of water contamination resulting from the landfill operation.
2. Unpleasant smell - The population is certain that unpleasant smell will be coming from the landfill and will make living conditions difficult for the nearby population.
3. Noise – The noise from the operation of the new landfill, as well as noise from coming waste trucks will cause high inconvenience for the nearby population, taking in to account that the landfill will serve 3 regions and the amount of trucks driving nearby villages will be significant. Also, in addition, people say that the site is on rocky ground and to straighten it for the landfill construction, the explosions will probably be required which will also worsen living conditions for the population.
4. Scattered waste – Considering the fact that the planned landfill site is located in a windy area and there are strong winds frequently, people are sure that the waste from the landfill will be blown away and scattered all around the area.
5. Tests – The protesters claim that the necessary tests were not performed during the preparation period and the permits were not issued properly according to Georgian Laws.
6. Visibility of the landfill – The site for the new landfill is located on a slope and is difficult to cover. It is located near the central highway and is surrounded by three villages. The population claims, they do not want to be looking at the landfill from their houses.

In overall, the protesters stand on their position that they do not want to have regional landfill that serves three regions, near their homes. They don’t want other regions waste delivered near their houses. They state that they will not allow any machinery near the site by any means necessary. They promise that they will set up camps with tents and start starvation and close the access roads. They have previously closed the road and they will continue similar actions.

People claim that they will not allow the landfill construction on the planned site and they will take all the extreme measure necessary for it.

In addition to the protests of nearby villages, some people from city of Kutaisi joined as well and all these protests are supported and encouraged by some political forces.

# Key findings and lessons learned

In the course of several events and in discussion with journalists, municipalities and other stakeholders several urgent and key problems referring to the knowledge about the existing waste management system as well as about the future national waste management system were identified:

* There is very limited knowledge about the national waste management strategy. People don't know about the roles and responsibilities of the main actors (municipalities collect / SWMCG ensures landfilling);
* People are not really aware that all existing municipal landfills will be closed down and will be replaced in future by just 7 to 8 regional landfills all newly built according to EU standards;
* There is a need to create awareness of citizens that waste services and waste collection do cost money and that either directly or indirectly people will have to pay. In future, prices for the services will have to be increased and due to the lack of understanding, the problem of non-payment might become even bigger than already noted by the municipalities;
* SWMCG is a key player in the waste management system since 2013 and will play even more important role in future. However, there is still a considerable lack of information of the general public about SWMCG, about its work and activities, and its achievements during the past years.

In line with this, the objections and concerns of the population can be divided in three categories:

* Lack of knowledge and understanding of the new standards for landfill design, which include many technical measures to prevent damages to the environment;
* Lack of confidence in the competence and capability of government institutions in general and SWMCG in particular to operate a newly built landfill professionally and in full compliance with national and international standards. This in turn also results and contributes to strongly negative attitude of the local population towards the new landfill that is planned to be built in Chognari close to Kutaisi and is expected to become a key issue in protests in other regions;
* Lack of confidence in the legal system and the assumption that the permits were not issued properly according to Georgian Laws;

Noted is that the protests are also politically driven, the SWMCG and AMC observed that at the discussions with the public, representatives of political parties presently in the opposition were present at the meetings.

## Next steps and strategy

It will be very difficult to convince the protesters in Chognari. Several additional technical measures have been proposed (and will be adopted in the final design and construction) that can reduce the visibility of the landfill and further operational measures will be taken (to be adopted in the Landfill Operations Plan and Manual) to contain odour and littering. Apparently, a small group of people in Chognari have proposed to set up a monitoring commission to check the performance of the SWMCG. Adopting this proposal will for sure help in mitigating some of the concerns but only when the landfill is in operation. Next to this, compensation measures, up to the point of providing financial compensation for relocation of some of the most nearby families needs to be considered.

Most of all, PR efforts should focus on containing the group and avoid that more people will join (politically motivated or not) and that similar protests will arise in other regions. Based on the objections and concerns, the following actions are proposed for the 2019 – 2021 PR campaigns and further actions of the AMC related to technical, organisational, PR management and financial management support to the SWMCG.

* Concerning the objection that the permits were issued in compliance with all legislation, obviously, the SWMCG (responsible for the EIA application), the Implementation consult (responsible for supporting the SWMCG in the preparation of the EIA) and the AMC (who assisted the IC in some aspects of the preparation of the EIA) will confirm that the permitting process was in compliance with the legislation. It is also recommended that SWMCG within the frame of the ongoing regional campaign is participating in talk shows of the regional TV (we have proposed a schedule) to proactively communicate these messages rather than reacting to upcoming protests of the opponents of the landfill.
	+ The construction of the landfill is fully legal and compliant with national and international legislation
	+ All obligatory procedures have been respected
	+ Citizens and civil society had all possibilities to contest the Environmental Impact Assessment
	+ The landfill is environmentally safe, and the correct operation will exclude leachate spilling out of the landfill and/or leachate ponds into the surrounding environment and ground water.

These messages and statements will however not convince the opponents of the landfill and it is a pity that they did not appeal against the decision on EIA as that would have provided a formal judicial review by the courts. But these messages will work and convince a great part of the population that the planned landfill is legally correct and environmentally safe.

NOTE UR: The population has written a letter to the prime minister and several key ministries. They obviously have considered this as the best possible way to express their concerns – to address directly to the highest political power instead of appealing to the juridic system!

* Concerning the lack of knowledge and understanding of the new standards for landfill design, this is already addressed in numerous publications of the SWMCG and the project (website, newsletters, journalist toolkit, info walls etc.) and is further supported by special events such as journalist briefings and the foreseen action in the 2019 – 2021 PR campaigns.
* Concerning the lack of confidence in the competence and capability of the SWMCG to operate the landfill in accordance with standards, the AMC is with the SWMCG working on introducing management systems for Occupational Health and Safety (OHS, ISO 45001), environmental management (EMS, ISO 14001), financial management and landfill operations management. For now, the reporting and verification systems connected to these are fully internal; it needs to be considered to adopt the ISO standards in full and opt for external reporting and verification as well and use this as an instrument to address the concerns about competence and capability. The EBRD as well as KfW require the implementation of these management systems as part of the agreements with MRDI and SWMCG, the SWMCG is however not yet fully convinced of the benefits of these management systems, an ongoing task of the AMC (and all other consultants for the next regional landfill projects).

All of the above proposed actions will contribute to reduce the risk that also in other regions protest may hamper development. The PR team of the AMC and the SWMCG will therefore need to address all issues with the consultants of the upcoming projects and engage them from the start in dedicated PR actions in each region. In addition to these actions, the AMC strongly recommends that the public is more actively involved in the site selection process, certainly in an earlier stage. Ideally, 2 to 3 sites that meet all technical, environmental and economic requirements are presented in a public discussion. Next to the proposed sites, in such a discussion the closure of all other sites, that may not be constructed according to present day standards, should be included. This will show the benefits of the new regional landfill as well as shift the discussion and possible protests towards a discussion about the “least problematic site”.

Annex 1: Overview and media summery

First media reports about Chognari populations’ protest over planned new landfill date from 2015. According to an article, published by News Press on 05.07.2015 (<http://newpress.ge/staties_id/2037>), residents of Chognari started voicing worries, fears and concerns about negative environmental impact of the planned new Regional Landfill shortly after the final decision about its location became public.

The article lists the following concerns as stated by the local population of Chognari: contamination of groundwater; smell; landscape; loosing pastureland for livestock (which means losing income); mismanagement of the landfill; mistrust, in general, towards government-implemented projects. The local residents have been requesting from SWMCG some proof for safety measurement mechanisms that would have allayed their fears and concerns.

Despite of clear signs from the very beginning that it would have faced intransigence of the local population, and contrary to AMC recommendations, the SWMCG opted to keep a low-profile and not to engage in proactive public relations campaign; the company believed that there was no need in publicity.

SWMCG did held several meetings with Chognari residents to present the new regional landfill plan, but to no avail as many of those meetings were growing into noisy disputes with some of them being actually thwarted by protesting locals.

After it was officially announced that the construction of the new regional Landfill would start in March 2019 the protests of Terjola Municipality population have intensified. A small opposition party, “Free Georgia”, seems to be attempting to capitalize on the issue and its local leader in Kutaisi is frequently featuring at a protest gathering of the Chognari population, becoming a strong voice in anti-Landfill construction campaign.

The growing protest has captured more media attention as well. News pieces and articles prepared by local and national media outlets about recent protests of the Chognari population demonstrate that the concerns and worries of the population are the same they were in 2015.

Terjola Municiplity Population nowadays uses the stronger language in its protests, and their campaign started featuring symbolism – at a protest gathering in the beginning of March, protesters scattered sugar, suggesting that at this stage they still speak “sweet”, but their patience is running out.

**Press review**

**Mega TV / Date: 24.01.2019**

Short description:

‘Starting construction of First regional landfill, construction signing ceremony’Landfill video premiere and comment of Chognari village representative that they are against but can't mobilize so many people to organize some permanent protests.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4UjC7E0YlM>

**REG TV / date: 26.01.2019**

Short description: Presenting new regional landfill video spot (long version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CbFWbENlGs>

**droa.ge / date: 29.01.2019**

Headline: Meeting of Chognari population with SWMCG representatives was thwarted

<https://droa.ge/?p=41225>

**Mega TV / date: 29.01.2019**

Short description: Meeting of SWMCG representatives with Chognari population

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_YXeg7dgZc>

**Rioni TV / date: 30.01.2019**

Short description: Meeting of Chognari population with SWMCG representatives was thwarted

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yl5jSD3TxmA>

**Radio Liberty /date: 30.01.2019**

Short description: Chognari population protesting construction of a new regional landfill

<https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/29741288.html>

**Georgian broadcaster 1TV /date: 04.02.2019**

Short description: Chognari population is protesting landfill construction. GOGI Tsulaia leader of political party 'Free Georgia' joins the protest

<https://1tv.ge/news/sofel-chognaris-mckhovreblebi-nagavsayrelis-msheneblobas-aprotesteben/>

**TV Rustavi 2 /date: 4.02.2019**

Short description: Chognari population is protesting landfill construction. GOGI Tsulaia leader of political party 'Free Georgia' joins the protest. In the reportage SWMCG adviser Khatuna Chikviladze tries to explains why protesters arguments are wrong.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCdWCWT8JIc>

**Georgian broadcaster 1TV/ date: 05.02.2019**

Short description: SWMCG and Imereti Governor joint meeting with population

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Owq362Le4II>

**Radio liberty / date: 6.02.2019**

Short description: Terjola municipality population is against construction of new regional landfill

[https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/თერჯოლის-სოფლების-მოსახლეობა-რეგიონალური-ნაგავსაყრელის-მშენებლობას-ეწინააღმდეგება/29755157.html](https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/%E1%83%97%E1%83%94%E1%83%A0%E1%83%AF%E1%83%9D%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1-%E1%83%A1%E1%83%9D%E1%83%A4%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1-%E1%83%9B%E1%83%9D%E1%83%A1%E1%83%90%E1%83%AE%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%9D%E1%83%91%E1%83%90-%E1%83%A0%E1%83%94%E1%83%92%E1%83%98%E1%83%9D%E1%83%9C%E1%83%90%E1%83%9A%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98-%E1%83%9C%E1%83%90%E1%83%92%E1%83%90%E1%83%95%E1%83%A1%E1%83%90%E1%83%A7%E1%83%A0%E1%83%94%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1-%E1%83%9B%E1%83%A8%E1%83%94%E1%83%9C%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%9A%E1%83%9D%E1%83%91%E1%83%90%E1%83%A1-%E1%83%94%E1%83%AC%E1%83%98%E1%83%9C%E1%83%90%E1%83%90%E1%83%A6%E1%83%9B%E1%83%93%E1%83%94%E1%83%92%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%90/29755157.html)

**TopNews / date: 12.02.2019**

Short description: Chognari Population protests starting construction of a news regional landfill in front of Governor’s office

<http://topnews.com.ge/news/15726>

**Mega TV/ Date: 12.02.2019**

Short description: Chognari Population protests construction of a news regional landfill in front of Governor’s office trying to block the entrance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_DcxngLg2Po>

**Kutaisi post / Date: 16.02.2019**

Short description: Chognari Population announces hunger strike from February 2019

<https://www.kutaisipost.ge/akhali-ambebi/article/14179-qnagavsayreli-thu-ashendeba-khelisufleba-500-amomrchevlis-khmas-dakargavsq--tcognarshi-mosakhleoba-shimshilobas-itsyebs>

**REGinfo / date:16.02.2019**

Short description: Chognari Population protests construction of a news regional landfill

<https://reginfo.ge/people/item/12551-sopel-chognarshi-regionuli-nagavsaybrelis-msheneblobas-aprotesteben>

**Maestro TV /date: 16.02.2019**

Short description Population of Terjola municipality is protesting construction of new regional landfill

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y9LeEigc_Y>

**Radio Liberty /date:16.02.2019**

Headline: We prefer to die, than to poison our future generation

<https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/29741288.html>

**TopNews /date: 17.02.2019**

Short description Chognari Population threatening government of starting hunger stike and not allowing construction works to start

<http://topnews.com.ge/news/15761>

**Palitra Tv /date: 19.02.2019**

Short description: Chognari Population protesting Construction of new regional landfill trying to block the traffic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8EaS9a0IfY>

**Radio Liberty /date: 19.02.2019**

Short description: New regional landfill construction plan still remains problem for protesters of Chognari population

[https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/რეგიონალური-ნაგავსაყრელის-მშენებლობა-იმერეთში-პროტესტის-მიზეზად-რჩება/29778795.html](https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/%E1%83%A0%E1%83%94%E1%83%92%E1%83%98%E1%83%9D%E1%83%9C%E1%83%90%E1%83%9A%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98-%E1%83%9C%E1%83%90%E1%83%92%E1%83%90%E1%83%95%E1%83%A1%E1%83%90%E1%83%A7%E1%83%A0%E1%83%94%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1-%E1%83%9B%E1%83%A8%E1%83%94%E1%83%9C%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%9A%E1%83%9D%E1%83%91%E1%83%90-%E1%83%98%E1%83%9B%E1%83%94%E1%83%A0%E1%83%94%E1%83%97%E1%83%A8%E1%83%98-%E1%83%9E%E1%83%A0%E1%83%9D%E1%83%A2%E1%83%94%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A2%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1-%E1%83%9B%E1%83%98%E1%83%96%E1%83%94%E1%83%96%E1%83%90%E1%83%93-%E1%83%A0%E1%83%A9%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%90/29778795.html)

**Mega TV /Date: 18.02.2019**

Short description: SWMCG answering to protesters need justified arguments why landfill should not be constructed at the selected site.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mTPseHKwo8>

**Public broadcaster 1TV /date: 22.02.2019**

Short description: Joint Protest of Chognari population and political party "free Georgia"

<https://1tv.ge/video/aqcia-sofel-chognarshi/>

**Radio Hereti (online news)/ date: 22.02.2019**

Short description: Chognari Population protests starting construction of a news regional landfill

<https://heretifm.com/?p=94323>

**TopNew /date: 25.02.2019**

Short description: Imereti Governor explains that the first regional landfill will not have any negative effect to ground water and environment as it will be constructed with high standards.

<http://topnews.com.ge/news/15821>

**Mega TV / Date: 1.03.2019**

Short description: Governor’s comment about need of construction of a News Regional landfill for Imereti Region

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esShZ_kfH3s>

**IPN / date: 08.03.2019**

Short description: Chognari population protested once again construction of new regional landfill, planted some seeds on the site and called the Government for creating recreation area

<https://www.interpressnews.ge/ka/article/536240-sopel-chognaris-mosaxleobam-nagavsaqrelis-mshenebloba-kidev-ertxel-gaaprotesta-da-xelisuplebas-rekreaciuli-zonis-mocqobisken-moucoda>

**Rustavi 2/date: 10.03.2019**

Short description: Public protest against construction of new regional landfill

<http://rustavi2.ge/ka/news/127870>