

## **Labor Culture and Religious Discourse in Different Communities of Georgia. Institute of Social Studies and Analysis**

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The goal of the project is to establish a correlation among religious values, work ethics and economic behavior in Orthodox and non-Orthodox (in particular Catholic and Protestant) Christians and Muslims. Sociological research among Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant Christians, and Muslim groups living in Georgia will be conducted in order to establish a link between religious values and economic behavior.

We can assume that religiosity (in particular, identification with Orthodoxy) can be an influential moderating variable in the process of attitude formation toward work in Georgia. Moreover, it is important to understand functional and dysfunctional attitudes toward work of those professing other faiths (in particular, Catholicism, Protestantism or Muslim faith) in Georgia. This project intends to conduct a comparative analysis.

The research will examine the following questions:

- Are any attempt made to formulate an explicit doctrine for a model of acceptable economic behavior for an Orthodox Christian within the Orthodox Church?
- Consequently, do other religious institutions create an alternative model of economic behavior, and if they do, to what extent is it adaptable to Georgian society, i.e., what is the likelihood that this model will become a source of social tension in certain regions / communities?
- What impact do the values of different religious institutions have on the actual economic behavior of believers, especially on their attitude toward work?
- Is there any conflict or, contrariwise, agreement (at least latent) between profane and sacral values specifically in the context of attitude toward work (economic behavior in general)?
- Do attitudes and dispositions of believers in rural and urban communities differ with regard to their attitude toward work?

Qualitative sociological research in rural and urban communities of Georgia will be conducted, using a case study methodological approach with the following specific methods: content-analysis, expert interviews, focus groups and in-depth interviews.

Research will progress through the following stages:

1. Content -analysis and expert interviews;
2. Determination of research topic indicators (designing research instruments);
3. Preparation work for conducting focus groups and in-depth interviews;
4. Carrying out field work – focus groups and in-depth interviews;
5. Presentation of research results and final report.