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Capacity-Building projects in the field of Higher Education

Raising Research Capacity of Georgian HEIs through Developing R&D Units / HERD

HERD project goals and outcomes:

HERD is a two-year project targeted at modernizing R&D units of the member universities, increasing the research capacity/quality and integrating teaching and research within the institutional settings. HERD is project planned around 5 core WPs closely intertwined with one another, describing a logical chain of project activities, identifying key milestones and deliverables, and monitoring of the overall quality of the project that aims to respond to:

- Major objectives of Georgian R&D strategy defined by the government's four-point development plan including education reform and creation of knowledge-based society;
- Strategic development plan of the Ministry of Education and Science [MES] on quality enhancement of education, research, raising innovation potential, capacity building on tech-transfer via strengthening university-industry relations, and internationalization;
- New standards of National Center for Education Quality Enhancement demanding the evidence-based policy for R&D and strategic development plans for research at HEIs.

Project aims and objectives:

- Establish a joint research platform through introducing a Research Management software in target universities
- Create an Online Georgian Research Portal that will display the state-of-the art information on the activities, human resources and infrastructure of the academic institutions in Georgia.
- Upgrade the research management and data analysis skills of the target university administrative personnel
- Enhance the capacity of the target universities in respect to research transfer and university-industry collaboration

Consortium partners:

Consortium consists of 17 full and 2 associated partners: 12 Georgian HEIs, 4 governmental agencies and 3 EU HEIs.

Majority of Georgian HEIs cover wide range of disciplines from social sciences/humanities to hard sciences, and represent the leading public and private HEIs in Georgia including several regional universities.

Georgian HEIs:

- IVANE JAVAKHISHVILI TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY (LEADER)
- ILIA STATE UNIVERSITY
- GEORGIAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
- TBILISI STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
- AKAKI TSERETELI STATE UNIVERSITY
- SHOTA RUSTAVELI STATE UNIVERSITY
- IAKOB GOGEBASHVILI TELAVI STATE UNIVERSITY
- V.SARAJISHVILI TBILISI STATE CONSERVATOIRE
- CAUCASUS UNIVERSITY LTD
- DAVID TVILDIANI MEDICAL UNIVERSITY LLC
- INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA UNIVERSITY LTD
- GEORGIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS N(N)LE

The consortium involves one governmental agency having direct connection to R&D in Georgia: Ministry of Education and Science [MES] defining state policy for R&D and Internationalization of research and 3 additional governmental agencies as associate partners: National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE) collecting overall data on academic staff, scholars and PhD students; Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency [GITA]; an Executive Agency for Research and Innovation Council under the Prime-Minister supports development of innovative technological projects in the country and currently works on nation-wide project on creating national center for tech-transfer support. National Center for Intellectual Property Rights [Saqpatenti] is a governmental body that regulates patenting and licensing IPR nationally.



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Governmental Agencies:

- MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE AND SPORT OF GEORGIA
- NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
- GEORGIA'S INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY AGENCY
- INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CENTER OF GEORGIA

Consortium also involves three EU HEIs: Technological University of Dresden [TU Dresden] that is among 10 largest HEIs in Germany and will contribute to research strategy planning/training in research management for R&D units; Université Clermont Auvergne [UCA], research intensive university that focuses on strengthening university-industry, public-private partnerships for achieving main societal challenges of the world; and Université Nice Sophia Antipolis [UNICE] which is amongst 3% of the universities worldwide in respect to research intensity and will focus on developing research strategies at Georgian HEIs and conduct the quality control of entire project.

EU HEIs:

- TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET DRESDEN
- UNIVERSITE CLERMONT AUVERGNE
- UNIVERSITE DE NICE SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS

All GEO HEIs Integrated into HERD project have their own research institutes [4 out of 12] and/or research centers/units [8 HEIs]. Overall research active people accumulated in HERD reaches 9500 scientists. All GEO HEIs offer PhD programs [total number of enrolled eligible PhD students - 3434]. This sample represents up to 82% of Georgian research capacity.

Overview of the kick-off meeting

27-28 of February, 2019, Tbilisi, Georgia

The kick-off meeting of HERD project (under the EU co-funded Erasmus+ KA2 program) was held on February 27-28 at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University which stands as the leading partner of the project. Rector of TSU, George Sharvashidze, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia, Irina Abuladze, Head of National Erasmus+ Office, Georgia, Lika Glonti, academics and students attended the first working meeting.



The main achievement of the The kick-off meeting of HERD project:

- The agreements for the partnership were signed between TSU and consortium members;
- The meeting was initiated to introduce each partner's resources, competences and experience in R&D management;





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- Steering committee SC was established from the consortium members for providing guidance on key issues of the project. One member was selected from each partner university who will be responsible for monitoring strategic issues and decision-making process and inform their own organization;
- There was a presentation of newly developed frameworks for Needs assessment of R&D in Georgia, Quality Management Plan and Media Communication Strategy;
- Three options of potential Research Management software were presented Via skype and discussed by three companies, registered in Europe:
 1. Vidatum Academics
 2. Smartsimple
 3. Open Campus
- In the end of the meeting participants outlined the plans for the first year and agreed on the challenges and risk factors of the project outcomes.

