

Internationalization of Higher Education in Georgia: Following the European Experience

Gori State Teaching University
International Relations Office

Introduction

In 2010, the Gori State University embarked on one-year assessment of its international activity, encompassing student mobility, faculty research, global visibility, engagement, accessibility of information, the role of the International Relations Office.

The result was a five-year Strategic Plan for Internationalization aligned objectives, strategies, and metrics with the goals. The result is a document that will guide decision-making and resource allocation across International Relations Office as well as in the international arena and also, follows the guidelines set out in the Georgian higher education internationalisation strategy.

The international dimension is today an integral part of the university in international academic life and an inevitable part of the university's development, ensuring the quality and sustainability of research and higher education.

Despite the fact that we as an institution have had quite a success in internationalization activities, we still struggle to find necessary funds to support the research and development projects of our young researchers and students. It is not that we fail to find the donor organizations; it is rather that we fail to instruct the young researchers and students with the tools how to apply the international funding to their research and development projects.

International donors, such as European Commission, USAID, United Nations has put enormous effort into developing tools to support project developers and applicants in the process of developing and managing projects with an international or European scope. These tools have never been transferred to the Caucasus Region in general and in particular to university environment, although they offer the possibility of increasing research capacity and international relations in the Caucasus region.

PACT Project

The project helped to build capacities among institutions from the EU and Caucasus universities in project development through transnational training. Currently Gori State Teaching University has at hand 4 trainers in project development, 8 trainees, who completed an LFA matrix based on their project proposals and a developed curriculum and handbook in project development,.

Exploitation and Sustainability of PACT

In the nearest future (probably in the academic year of 2016-2017) the university plans to include the course in Project Development in Master Educational Programs of Business Administration, Finances, and Tourism Management, whereas in February 2016, we plan to launch short-term certificate program in Project Development.

Thank you for your attention!