



Monitoring Visit Protocol

➤ VISIT DETAILS

1.1 Completed by	Lia Akhaladze, Tamar Shinjiashvili
1.2 Location	Tbilisi, Georgia
1.2 Name of Institution	Sokhumi State University
1.4 Dates	15.10.2015- 30.10.2017

➤ PROGRAM DETAILS

2.1 Name of program	DARE
2.2 Target groups	Students with learning disabilities, socially unprotected and national minority students
2.3 Name of staff responsible for the program or department	Lia Akhaladze, Tamar Shinjiashvili, Omar Ardashelia
2.4. Special equipment used within the framework of DARE	Smart boards, desktop computers, TV equipment, notebooks, multifunction printer, camera

➤ PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

3.1. What issue or problem does this program address?	Development of Student Support Services for national minority students, socially unprotected, students with special educational needs and learning difficulties, which is directly related to the project goals.
3.2 What is the goal of the program?	Development of student support services for national minority students, socially unprotected, students with special educational needs and learning difficulties should support socialization of the students of this category and their active involvement in academic and student life.
3.3 Program description	For national minority students, socially unprotected, students with special educational needs and learning difficulties forming free Georgian and English language courses, free computer class, e-learning, development of special support forms, including teaching services, technical support, the use of the university library by this category of students, personal assistance, their involvement in sporting and cultural life.
3.4 How is progress	1. Language proficiency exam. ●



<p>towards the achievement of the program's goal tracked? Please specify which indicators are being utilised to measure progress.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The constant testing in the learning process; Academic progress assessed through grades of the courses which they take. 3. At the end of the semester to fill in a questionnaire, which reflects the students' self-evaluation: how they feel about their academic skills and abilities?; their attitudes towards their teachers or how they feel their teachers relate to them? Etc. 4. Questionnaires to fill in by teachers, will reflect how the existence of free state language courses is justified. Whether the teachers feel that this course had a positive impact on the students? 5. Active involvement of students in the implementation process of DARE project. 6. Teaching courses are required among the students.
---	--

➤ **PROBLEMS**

List the specific issues / problems that were identified and actions that need to be taken to solve the problem.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No existence of trainings for teachers who had to work with students of national minorities, socially unprotected, students with special educational needs and learning difficulties. Currently trainings are conducted and teachers are prepared. 2. Deficiency of electronic learning. At present, we are working on creating electronic courses. 3. Infrastructure problem, which is currently settled. 4. The absence of special technical equipment, which is partially solved. We have purchased special computer equipment for computer classes, Georgian and English classes. The Faculty of Education did not have a separate computer class and students used with common university computer class. Today the faculty of education has a computer class, which is used by this category of student, other students and academic personnel.

➤ **RESULTS** Refer to section 3.4 and list the specific outcomes (intangible) and outputs (tangible) of the program

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Forming Free Georgian and English Language Courses for students with national minorities, socially unprotected, students with special educational needs and learning difficulties ➤ Forming free computer courses ➤ Preparation for the creation of the electronic lessons ➤ Develop special support services for intermediate and final examinations, including training services, technical support, use of university library for students of this category at the rector's order level ➤ Personal help ➤ Purchasing of computer equipment (purchasing is not completed yet) ➤ Participation of these students in student conferences and various events



- Training of academic personnel related to the teaching of students with learning difficulties:
 - April 25-28, 2017 - Training conducted by the European Access Network at Sokhumi State University for Academic and Administrative Personnel
 - May 19, 2017 – Training of supporting forms for students with Learning disabilities by Tinatin Chincharauli at Ilia State University.
 - June 7, 2017 - Training of Tinatin Chincharauli at Sokhumi State University on the support forms of students with disabilities in the higher education level.

- Participate in international conferences for dissemination of DARE ideas.
- International Scientific Conference: “Intercultural Communication” – 25 May, 2016.
- UNESCO declared the year 2016 as a year of the famous Georgian writer Vazha Pshavela. The National Academy of Sciences of Abkhazia and Sokhumi State University dedicated a joint National Scientific Forum to this fact, where DARE team also presented the research themes in the framework of the project - 17 June, 2016
- DARE team participated in the Second International Conference: Higher Education, New Technologies and Innovations (1-2 May, 2017, Akaki Tsereteli State University, Kutaisi) where we presented the theme in the framework of the project- Introduction and Research of Multicultural Education Aspects in Higher Education Institutions of Georgia (on the example of Sokhumi State University)
- .2 The conference of 26 April 2017 with participation of Georgian universities and involvement of the Ministry of Education and Science.
https://www.facebook.com/lia.akhaladze.1/media_set?set=a.10155496288891518.634541517&type=3

- For the dissemination of DARE project ideas at the national conference of Bachelor, Master and PhD students scientific society, a special section was formed and started to work: National Minorities in Georgia: Education, Culture, Traditions.
- DARE team Participation at the international and regional conferences on DARE thematic about the issues of students of national minorities and special educational needs.
- The thematics of DARE are reflected in Bachelor’s and Master’s thesis researches of Education Faculty.
- Presentations on DARE thematic are presented at the annual students and academic personnel’s university scientific conferences.

- Information about the DARE project was spread through newspapers, on television and on the University website.
- The information about DARE- consortium leaders’ visit to Sokhumi State University, the consortium members meeting in Murcia, preparation of a new action plan was posted; the consortium members meeting in Achva college in Israel was posted on the University web site.
- The information about the content, objectives and tasks of DARE project in Sokhumi State University was transmitted on one of the TV channels of Georgia –
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_____DBFumsCNeJg&feature=share&list=PL7Folp11yjJdwZ4UuDdN4LtS6mQPreBvt&index=2
After visit in Israel the information about the second consortium meeting was transmitted on TV also. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7tgkA16RAs>



- **SUCCESS** What has gone particular well in the program? Indicate significant progress towards achieving specific goals, unexpected positive impacts and developments, other improvements and developments in the program, the positive events, solved bottlenecks etc. If you have future recommendations please add it here.

The program is being successfully implemented, because students of national minorities, socially unprotected, students with special educational needs and learning difficulties try to participate actively in the activities mentioned above. After attending Georgian and English courses their academic learning level is being improved, supporting them during the mid-term and final exams their motivation to learn better is being raised. They actively engaged in student conferences, they receive their diplomas and certificates for preparing presentation in the framework of DARE project, go out on excursions along with other students.
Introduction of electronic courses will further improve their quality of study.

Especially successful are:

1. English language courses
2. Georgian language courses
3. Trainings of academic personnel (especially trainings of European access Network by Mee Foong Lee and Tricia Jenkins - **Personal and institutional readiness for student success – working with minority students**)
4. Computer class
5. Scientific Practical Conferences, especially conference with the participation of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia on September 28, 2017, within the framework of the Science and Innovation Festival. All State Universities of Georgia have acquainted with the activities and outcomes of the project.

➤ **IMPACT**

What has changed in the way that the institution and target groups operate because of this program?

In the framework of the project **University regulation changing was made in Teaching Management Service** – in March, 2016 by the Rector's order students with learning difficulties and the representatives of national minorities are given additional time to prepare and pass the final exams.

Besides free Georgian, English and computer classes e-learning is planned. Recording audio and video versions of lectures will be launched; students of national minorities, socially unprotected, students with special educational needs and learning difficulties will be able to use them.

Academic personnel's and teachers' teaching methods have been changed for this category of students on the basis of DARE trainings. To get access to teaching courses, they started using new academic and technological strategies.

Since September of 2017 filling the screening-questionnaire have become mandatory for new enrollment students. After enrollment at the university all first year student have to fill it in the student and registration service of the faculty. Filling the questionnaire is essential to get information about the special needs and learning difficulties. Similar questions have already been completed in May of this year. All universities participating in the project conducted a screening-



questionnaire, including Sokhumi State University, although it was anonymous. In September of the same year all first year student filled the same form with the name and surname. At present the questionnaire is being processed, after this process it will be determined if the student has learning difficulties and what kind of support form the university can offer them.

Currently it is planned to use **support forms** during the mid-term and final exams:

- Using computer programs to perform essays and tests;
- Conducting the exams in the environment free from Exam distractors;
- Short breaks during the test;
- Changing the exam paper format (font, size)
- Reading the questions aloud;
- Use calculator.

Providing physical access, if needed, mentor assistance, consultation on improvement of the teaching process which helps everyone in identifying and solving the problem in achieving academic success.

It is planned to create an **inclusive and psychological cabinet** where psychologists of faculty will assist national minorities, socially unprotected and students with learning disabilities to overcome difficulties arising in the learning process.

➤ SUSTAINIABILITY

What measures are taken to sustain the program beyond the project lifetime?

The project does not provide only 3-year working period and its sustainability should continue in the following years, therefore guarantee of the sustainability will be the specially opened cabinets, special classrooms, DARE computer classes, e-learning courses.

One of the most important guarantees of sustainability of DARE is the 20-21 November Conference Abstracts and Collection of Articles, conference materials which will be a guide for the following work.

Readers – are being prepared by the DARE members in the framework of DARE

Existence of the section of DARE ideas at the Annual Scientific-Practical Conference of Students' Academic Staff.

Filling the screening questionnaire by the first year students elaborated in the framework of DARE at the beginning of each academic year and the identification of students.

➤ GENERAL IMPRESSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Insert your general observations from the monitoring visit here. Include relevant photos, web links, case studies and quotes to illustrate your points.

SSU's internal communication between the Faculty of Education and the Heads of other departments and the rector, established the foundation for successful collaboration and work within SSU as well as within the DARE consortium. The importance of involving partners and key



stakeholders in development of a collaborative project from the first stages onward have been shown to have positive results in regards to program implementation.

SSU DARE members have the intensive cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, NGOs and other stakeholders, who are working with ethnic and religious minorities, with people with learning difficulties. They give us practical advices and information related to the issues we are interested in.

The result of such cooperation was the national conference "**Inclusive Education in Higher Educational System**", which was held in September 28, 2017, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia in the framework of festival of Education and Science. The organizer of the conference was Sokhumi State University. The one of the topic of the conference was support forms for students with learning difficulties and national minority students.

Activities implemented within the project are in line with the objectives of the project. Is full compliance with Georgian legislation, national strategies, especially with regards of national minorities and people with special educational needs. These activities further strengthen the protection of their human rights and contribute to the acceptance of their right to education and access to higher education. Is in line with the mission of the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, with the activities of the Erasmus + National Office in Georgia. Project ideas are considered in the concept of culture.

DARE project causes great interest outside of the University as well, which was reflected in many TV programs. SSU DARE team members are often invited to the television to make the society informed about progress of the program, that the university is implementing.

Besides it, the project contributes to the cooperation between the Georgian universities. Information about DARE project, its ideas, members, coordinator and partner countries, framework plan, future activities were described and detailed discussed in the newspapers and on one of the Georgian television. The information about DARE- consortium leaders' visit to Sokhumi State University, the consortium members meeting in Murcia, preparation of a new action plan was posted; the consortium members meeting in Achva college in Israel was posted on the University web site a special TV programs were prepared about Achva college and Telavi visit in November, 2016.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBFumsCNeJg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7tgkA16RA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9RrORlcKB8>
- https://www.facebook.com/lia.akhaladze.1/media_set?set=a.10155496288891518.634541517&type=3

Date: 30.10.2017

Full Name: Lia Akhaladze, Tamar ShinjiaShvili

Signature: *Lia Akhaladze*
Tamar ShinjiaShvili