

## **Dissemination Day of International Projects at Sokhumi State University (DOIT, DARE, ASSET)**

On June 30, 2018 with the initiative of the Faculty of Education of Sokhumi State University in the framework of the international projects of the EU – Tempus, Erasmus+ was held dissemination day of **DOIT, DARE, ASSET** projects. Director of the Center for International Relations of Gordon Academic College of Education, Dr. Rhonda Sofer, who is also an Honorary Doctor of Sokhumi State University specially visited the conference dedicated to the dissemination day. The conference was opened by the coordinator of these projects at SSU Lia Akhaladze, the Dean of the Faculty. She talked about the importance and role of international projects in the development of the university.

The University Rector, **Prof. Zurab Khonelidze**, who underlined the mission and importance of Sokhumi State University in Georgian educational space welcomed the participants of the conference and wished the success. “Our today's meeting is an important step towards spreading and dissemination of the ideas of the EU international projects. Such events promote the creation of new ideas, development of university cooperation and expansion of university diplomacy” - noted Zurab Khonelidze. The conference participants were welcomed by Nana Kilasonia, head of the Division of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Prof. Nino Tophuridze, Head of university administration and Prof. Maia Miresashvili, Head of Department of Teaching Process Management.

**Dr. Rhonda Sofer** underlined the key principles of the European Commission's TEMPUS and ERASMUS + Programs in her greeting. These programs are based on the principle of collaboration, working together and sharing of knowledge. “Participants of this conference have had the special opportunity of experiencing international collaboration and through this collaboration not have only benefited professionally from this experience, but also this collaboration has impacted their institutions. New courses and innovative ways of teaching these courses have been developed; existing curriculum has been modernized; NEW departments have been created; assessment methods are being modernized so that we can more successfully evaluate our new courses and ways of teaching and learning; equipment that is now essential for research, learning and innovative methods of teaching and learning have been purchased; Since the selection in 2012 of the DOIT TEMPUS program that promoted diversity, we started with 5 Georgian Universities, 5 Israelis Universities and 5 EU Universities. Today we have 6 Capacity Building programs that combine Israeli, Georgian other partner countries and EU higher educational institutions, we have more than 30 different universities from Israel, Georgia, other partner countries and Europe that are collaborating together”, – noted Rhonda Sofer.

Head of Quality Assurance Service Prof. Rome Galdava, who spoke about the involvement of the university in the international projects thanked Rhonda Sofer for the support of the university and cooperation.

Rhonda Sofer (Gordon Academic College of Education, Georgia), Justin Pierzinska (Helsinki University, Finland), Nana Kilasonia (Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia), Tamar Shinjiashvili (Sokhumi State University) had presentations at plenary session of the conference.

The presentations of the following Professors are dedicated to the dissemination of international projects: Sopiko Lobzhanidze and Eka Tkavashvili, David Malazonia and Nino Chiabrishvili (Ilia State University), Rozeta Gujejiani (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University),

Irma Kurdadze (Samtskhe-Javakheti State University), Tamar Kalichava (Otar Chkheidze Scientific Research Center), Tamar Pkhaladze, Iana Torchinava (St. Andrew the First-called Georgian University of the Patriarchate of Georgia), Zoia Adamia (Ekvtime Takaishvili University), Lali Akhaladze (Georgian Sports University). The conference was widely attended by SSU academic staff: Gulnaz Khukhua, Izolda Bukhuleishvili, Tamar Javakhishvili, Elza Garakanidze, Omar Ardashelia, Kakha Kvashilava, Levan Jinjikhadze, Nino Tsulaia, Inga Morgoshia, Lela Rekhviashvili and others.:

Involvement of school directors in the conference was especially important: Nana Jalaghonია (2nd Public School of Abkhazia), Maia Phirkhadze (Italian school "Tsiskari"), Tamara Akhobadze (Tbilisi # 79 public school), Nino Gvaradze (private school "Aisi"), Edna Bazerashvili (Tbilisi Public School # 157);

At the end of the conference, the moderators Eka Tkvashevili and Maia Phirkhadze discussed the work outcomes of the sections. Rhonda Sofer and Lia Akhaladze summed up the work of the conference and awarded the participants with certificates. The organizers of the conference were: Lia Akhaladze, Tamar Shinjiashvili, Temur Khevsuriani and Omar Ardashelia.