

## Sokhumi State University

### Involvement of governmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the European Commission project DARE

The DARE project elaborates mechanisms for institutional development of higher education, and in the framework of the project, Sokhumi State University has established close cooperation with representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia<sup>1</sup>. 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, people with learning difficulties. They give us practical advices and information related to the issues we are interested in and we in turn have presented them with recommendations.

In the process of implementation of the project (2015-2018) the following structural units of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia closely cooperated with Sokhumi State University:

- Higher Education and Science Development Department,
- National Curriculum Department,
- Students' Social Promotion Division
- Inclusive Education Development Division

Besides, governmental organizations in the activities implemented within the framework of the project NGOs and other institutions participated as well:

- ✓ National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
- ✓ Erasmus + National Office in Georgia;
- ✓ United Nations Children's Development Fund - Unicef
- ✓ Civil Development Institute
- ✓ Center for Civil Integration and Inter-ethnic Relations
- ✓ Public Defender's Office
- ✓ Human Rights Department
- ✓ Gpried - Georgia Primary Education Project
- ✓ Human Rights Partnership
- ✓ Unicef in Georgia
- ✓ Open Society Foundation Georgia.

---

<sup>1</sup> Now The Ministry of Education, Science, culture and Sport of Georgia.

**26 April, 2017. Dissemination of European Union International Project DARE in Georgia;** Conference and discussions dedicated to the dissemination of the project. *Government and non-governmental organizations participating in the conference work:*

- Head of Department of Higher Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia **Prof. Valerian Gobronidze**, who got acquainted with the DARE project's goals, ideas and ways of implementation, participated in the ongoing discussions on the implementation, in dissemination of the project and other scientific conferences conducted within the project; Certifying documents: pictures, welcome notes.
- Head of National Curriculum Department of the *Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia/ Natia Jokhadze*. Participated in the conference activities: greetings and speech at the plenary session. **Accessibility of Higher Education and Accessibility Criteria – Proposals for public Policy**. Certifying documents: pictures, welcome notes. The proposed criteria in this report were used by the SSU team in the process of implementation of the project
- Head of *Erasmus + National Office in Georgia* **Lika Glonti** and the project manager of the office **Tata Lortkipanidze**. The report is accompanied by speech of Tata Lortkipanidze.
- Ms. **Tamar Mosiashvili**, Education Program Manager, Civil Development Institute. Participated in the work of the Conference dedicated to the dissemination, greetings and engagement in discussions;
- Head of Educational Programs of Civil Integration and Inter-Center Relations Center, Doctor of Education **Natia Gorgadze**. Participated in the work of the conference and discussions. Certifying documents: pictures, welcome notes: Presented in detail in the written form her own views and views of the Institute of Civil Integration on the access of higher education.

**28 September, 2017. National Scientific Conference "Inclusive Education in Higher Educational System"**. Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Department of Education and Science Development of Georgia, Inclusive Education Development Division were involved in the conference. (See the program and photos). Representatives of Government and non-governmental organizations participating in the conference work:

- Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, **Mrs. Lia Gigauri**. Participated in the conference activities: greetings, interviews with media. During the welcome, the Deputy Minister talked about the importance and role of inclusive education on the elaboration of mechanisms for increasing student engagement in the learning process.
- Head of Department of Higher Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia **Prof. Valerian Gobronidze**, participated in the conference activities: greetings, discussion.
- Head of Division of Science Development of Department of Higher Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia **Mr. Nugzar Chitaia**, Participated in the conference activities: greetings, summarizing the conference; He summarized the work of the conference and made it highly appreciated;
- Head of Inclusive Education Development Division of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia **Ekaterine Dgebuadze**. She participated in the conference activities: organizing the conference preparation issues together with the DARE coordinator;
- Coordinator of subprogram of the Inclusive Education Development Division of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia - *Promotion of introduction of inclusive education at the level of vocational and higher education* - **Maia Tsuladze** – made the presentation: "**Development of support services of the students with special educational needs in the universities** (See presentation N1).
- Deputy head of the Inclusive Education Development Division of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia **Tamar Isakadze** – made the presentation "**Assessment of students with Special Education Needs**" (see Presentation N2).

**20-21 November, 2017. International Inclusive Education: Research, Learning, Teaching and Student Support.** Representatives of Government and non-governmental organizations participating in the conference work:

- Head of Department of Higher Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia **Prof. Valerian Gobronidze**, participated in the conference activities: greetings, discussion, interviews with television.
- Head of *Erasmus + National Office in Georgia* **Lika Glonti**. Participated in the conference activities: greetings, discussion, interviews with television.
- Head of Inclusive Education Development Division of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia **Ekaterine Dgebuadze**. She participated in the conference

- activities: Greetings, report at the plenary session: Development of Inclusive Education in Georgia. Certifying documents: pictures, report presentation (uploaded on DARE portal).
- UNICEF Georgia - **Natia Jokhadze**, co-coordinator of UNICEF Education Programs. Participated in the conference activities: Presentation of the report at the plenary session: **Accessibility of Higher Education in Georgia. Certifying documents: pictures, report presentation** (is on DARE portal).
  - Head of Educational Programs of Civil Integration and Inter-Center Relations Center, Doctor of Education **Natia Gorgadze**. Participated in the work of the conference activities. Presentation of the report at the plenary session: **Career Growth and Employment Perspectives of Ethnic Minority Students and Graduates**.

**30 June, 2018. Dissemination Day: Modern Paradigms of Education and Dissimination of EU International Projects (DARE, ASSET, DOIT, CURE).** Representatives of Government and non-governmental organizations participating in the conference work:

- Head of *Erasmus + National Office in Georgia* **Lika Glonti**. participated in the conference activities: greetings;
- Head of Division for School Textbook Approval and Evaluation of Learning Resources Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, **Mrs. Nana Kilasonia**. Participated in the conference activities: greetings, presentation of the report at the plenary session: Certifying documents: pictures, report presentation.

In the framework of DARE project on the basis of cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, special recommendations have been elaborated in order to increase access to higher education for students with special educational needs, national minorities and socially vulnerable students, namely:

1. To increase time for midterm and final exams for studetns with special educational needs, LD students and students of national minorities.
2. All higher education institutions should provide special free Georgian language courses, except for 60 credit programs in Georgian language.
3. All higher education institutions should provide special free English language courses.

4. In order to increase the socialization and civic integration of these students, the higher education institutions should be provided with ideas about conducting conferences, public lectures, seminars and trainings on multiculturalism and inclusive education.
5. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia should conduct special trainings for staff of Students Registration Services and representatives of other student support services of higher education institutions who are not involved in DARE project. DARE project SSU team members are ready to conduct the mentioned trainings, seminars, workshops. The Ministry expresses its readiness to introduce these recommendations to other higher educational institutions that are not included in the DARE project.
6. Sokhumi State University will conduct conferences on inclusive education and multiculturalism issues and Department of Higher Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia to provide support for enhancing the involvement of other higher education institutions.