

Higher Education Reform Experts

The purpose of the National Teams of Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) is to provide a pool of expertise in certain areas to promote and enhance progress toward the Lisbon and Bologna objectives in the light of national needs and aspirations.

Within these broader objectives the National Team is amongst other activities providing counseling to higher education institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations on the following areas:

- Quality Assurance (internal and external)
- The Three Cycle System: curricular reform, national and European Qualification Frameworks (NQF/EQF), Tuning
- Recognition (ECTS, Diploma Supplement, Europass, Lisbon Recognition Convention)
- Student services

Despite counseling and public presentations, one of the formats of HERE activities in Georgia is participation in local and international seminars/conferences, development of guides as well as conducting/supervising research on specific issues of HE reform.

Participation in Bologna Conferences & Seminars

Georgian experts participated in seminars for Bologna and Higher Education Reform Experts, organized by the European Commission, as well as in other seminars and conferences of interest – detailed list of events visited and organized see below. Seminars and workshops have been chosen according to their importance for the current reform of HE system in the country.

NTO and HERE have developed special template for reporting: reports shall include not only general information on event visited, but also special recommendations. Report template has following headings:

- 1) General info on event – organizer, programme, participants
- 2) Main message
- 3) Relevance of the event for Georgia
- 4) Recommendations for relevant structures (HEIs, Ministry, Accreditation Centre, etc.)

Obligatory information seminars for representatives of Georgian HEIs and Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) as well as National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE, accreditation agency) have been held on regular basis by HERE after returning to Georgia (*see Reports & Recommendations*).

Georgian HERE Team 2009 - 2013

Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) in Georgia represent public and private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from the capital and regions, as well as Ministry of Education and Science and National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Bologna field of expertise</i>	<i>HERE involvement</i>
Mikheil Basilaia	Tbilisi State University (student)	Student mobility, Recognition	2009 - 2011
Lali Bakradze	Ministry of Education and Science; Education Development Institute	NQF, Tuning, Mobility, Recognition	2009 – till now
Giorgi Chantladze	Ilia State University (student)	Student services, QA	2011 – till now
Ketevan Gurchiani	Ilia State University	QA, NQF, Mobility	2009 – till now
Irine Darchia	Tbilisi State University	QA, Tuning, Curriculum development	2009 – till now
Abdul Kakhidze	Batumi Maritime Academy	ECTS, QA	2009 – till now
Tinatini Zurabishvili	Telavi State University; Georgian Institute of Public Affairs	QA, Curriculum development	2009 - 2012
David Kereselidze	National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement; New Vision University	QA, NQF	2011 – till now

Participation in HE Reform

HERE participate in development and discussion of

- ✓ National Qualifications Framework (NQF) for higher education, organized by the MoES;
- ✓ Future of PhD programmes in Georgia, organized by the NCEQE;
- ✓ SWOT analysis of higher education and science in Georgia, conducted by the consortium of non-governmental organizations (including NTO);
- ✓ New criteria and procedures for authorisation and programme accreditation.

The whole team of HERE was involved in a Twinning project “Capacity enhancement for implementing the Bologna action lines in Georgia (CEIBAL)”. Twinning project has been launched in 2009 in order to strengthen the institutional capacity and legal environment of the MoES for the full implementation of the Bologna process in Georgia. HERE participated in all components of the project as local experts.

HEREs are members of the governmental commission on Higher Education reform (2013) – special group of experts has been established at the MoES in order to elaborate draft for the future new Law on Higher Education. Group includes representatives of the ministry, NCEQE, universities and NTO.

Worth mentioning, that Georgian HEREs are being invited to other countries to share experience and provide seminars: HERE D. Kereselidze participated as an expert in the International Scientific Conference “European Integration of Higher Education in Ukrainian Context of Bologna Process” (Kiev, Ukraine, 25-26.10.2012) and provided special workshop for Ukrainian colleagues on accreditation issues.

Trainings

HERE provide trainings for all interested parties (as mentioned above) as part of dissemination activities, as well as on request.

- ✓ Training for HEIs academic and administrative staff on LLL at universities has been provided by HERE Irine Darchia (2010).
- ✓ Training on HEI management, as part of the Twinning Project “Capacity Enhancement for Implementing the Bologna Action Lines in Georgia (CEIBAL)” provided by HERE L. Bakradze (2011).
- ✓ HERE Irine Darchia has been appointed as a trainer for newly selected accreditation experts. I. Darchia prepared training materials and provided first session of two-day trainings for 14 experts (first intake) by the end of December 2013. More training sessions will follow in 2014.

Guidelines

Two guidelines have been developed by HEREs in 2009:

- ✓ Joint academic programmes and degrees – Lali Bakradze (available only in Georgian)
- ✓ Lifelong Learning at Higher Education Institutions – Irine Darchia (available only in Georgian)

Research projects

Surveys have been conducted by teams of local researchers and students and supervised by HEREs in 2010-2013 (full texts available in Georgian with summaries in English):

- ✓ “The Best and the Worst Practices of Quality Enhancement – Case of Georgia” – Tbilisi State University, Nino Javakhishvili (research group leader) Irine Darchia (HERE)

- ✓ “Student Involvement in Higher Education Institutions’ Management” – Ilia State University, Natia Andguladze (research group leader), Ketevan Gurchiani (HERE)
- ✓ “Georgian Universities Support to their Student’s Employability” – developed by Tbilisi State University student research group, research group leader Nino Javakhishvili, Irine Darchia (HERE)
- ✓ “Doctoral Programmes in Georgia: Developments and Challenges” – developed by Ilia State University student research group, research group leader Nino Javakhishvili, Ketevan Gurchiani (HERE)
- ✓ “Strategic development of Higher Education and Science in Georgia” – developed with participation of HEREs Irine Darchia and Lali Bakradze

Reader

A comprehensive reader has been developed for the regional seminar, organized by NTO Georgia and UNICA in 2010 in Tbilisi, Georgia:

- ✓ Management of the Quality in the Context of NQF - reader of regional seminar, developed by HERE Irine Darchia (available only in English)

HEREs also participated in development of country fishes (2010 & 2012), as well as National Reports on University Governance (2010) and Human Resource Management in Public Higher Education (2012).

List of events visited/organized by HEREs in 2009 - 2013

Bologna seminars (organized by UNICA)

- ✓ Making Mobility Happen – Rome, Italy (2009)
- ✓ Competences for the Future – Warsaw, Poland (2009)
- ✓ Recognition in HE – How to make it work – Tallinn, Estonia (2010)
- ✓ Social Dimension of Higher Education – Nicosia, Cyprus (2010)
- ✓ Promoting Learning Mobility – Brussels, Belgium (2011)
- ✓ Modernization of Curricula – Oslo, Norway (2011)
- ✓ Enhancing Quality through Internationalisation – Lisbon, Portugal (2012)
- ✓ Research-based Education: Strategy and Implementation – Budapest, Hungary (2012)
- ✓ Putting Bucharest’s Conclusions on Track – Vilnius, Lithuania (2012)
- ✓ Cross-Border Education – Madrid, Spain (2013)

Bologna Ministerial Conferences

- ✓ Bologna Ministerial Conference – Leuven, Belgium (2009)
- ✓ Bologna Ministerial Anniversary Conference – Budapest & Vienna (2010)

Study visits:

- ✓ University – Business Cooperation – Brussels, Belgium (2012)
- ✓ Student Support Services – London, UK (2013)

Tempus seminars & related events

- ✓ Tempus regional seminar on University Governance – Kiev, Ukraine (2010)
- ✓ South Caucasian Regional Seminar “Management of Quality in the Context of NQF” – Tbilisi, Georgia (2011)
- ✓ Eastern Dimension of Mobility – Warsaw, Poland (2011)
- ✓ Eastern Partnership Platform IV Visibility Event – Kiev, Ukraine (2011)
- ✓ Seminar on Doctoral Education – Brussels, Belgium (2011)
- ✓ Tempus Regional Seminar on Human Resource Management in Higher Education – Chisinau, Moldova (2013)
- ✓ INTERUV First Regional Conference on Joint Study Programmes – Warsaw, Poland (2013)
- ✓ Tempus seminar on ‘Diversification of Funding, Autonomy and Strategic Planning at Universities - Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (2013)
- ✓ Information Day Erasmus + for Eastern Partnership Countries – Kaunas, Lithuania (2013)

Summer School

Summer school “University Lifelong Learning” – organized by NTO Georgia in close collaboration and with co-funding of dvv-international (Germany), UNICA, and NTOs of Armenia and Azerbaijan. EU experts from Austria and Estonia provided trainings for participants from three South Caucasian countries – Batumi, Georgia (2011)

International seminars (participation funded by NTO)

- ✓ Center for Higher Education seminar on Quality Management Systems – Kassel, Germany (2009)
- ✓ European University Association annual meeting on Doctoral Education - Lausanne, Switzerland (2009)
- ✓ European University Association seminar on Doctoral Education ‘Structuring Doctoral Programmes - a means for continuous improvement – Zagreb, Croatia (2009)
- ✓ Qualifications Framework Conference in Dublin, Ireland (2010)
- ✓ European University Association Doctoral Council annual meeting ‘Promoting Creativity – cultivating the research mindset’ – Madrid, Spain (2011)
- ✓ International Conference of the JOI.CON project – Bologna, Italy (2012)
- ✓ European University Association Doctoral Week ‘Funding Doctoral Education and Quality Assurance’ – Stockholm, Sweden (2012)
- ✓ European University Association Doctoral Council meeting ‘From Student to Researcher’ – Warsaw, Poland (2013)
- ✓ European Quality Assurance Forum – Gothenburg, Sweden (2013)