



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის
The European Union for Georgia



Supporting inter-sectoral collaboration possibilities between
Research and Industry
GE 18 ENI OT 02 19

MEETING REPORT

„Identifying topics: Developing an internationalization strategy for Georgia”

12 February 2021

Virtual workshop 2

Component 3 “Institutional capacity of SRNSFG with a view to strengthening international collaboration enhanced”

Activity 3.1.1. Promotion and implementation of the supporting schemes/preparatory activities and capacity building based on international standards

(Action 3.1.1.6.)

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SWOT

prepared by MoESCS and SRNSFG

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia's integration in international R&I Programmes • Exact and life sciences – strong tradition for Georgia • Georgian Scientific Diaspora • Previously administered bilateral calls with international partners • Institutional Capacity of SRNSFG – communication with international partners, membership of international associations, consortiums and committees – vast cooperation network 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Funding • Small country, few opportunities • Lack of awareness on international calls and programs • Language competences • Lack of competitive grant-writing experience among scientists • Lack of developed business companies with R&D activities.
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in EU programmes • Process of internationalization via involvement of diaspora • Natural sciences • Readiness of the government for internationalization • Potential of national universities with good infrastructures • Associated member of HORIZON 2020 (2016-2020) • Participation in COST Actions • Participation in European Research Council (ERC) • Membership of EURAXESS • Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation with Different Countries • Preparation for HORIZON EUROPE • Mobility schemes for researchers 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political situation (variable situation) • Regional geopolitical instability • Frequent structural changes • Not harmonized legislative system • Technological threats • Many bureaucratic and legislative hurdles for flexible activities. • Frequent changes in above leadership and ministerial level.

Why is it important to have Internationalisation Strategy for Georgia?



Virtual table 1 “Activities”

Prioritization

What is needed to intensify international cooperation in the future?	
Important and urgent	Important but not urgent
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritization of strength (promising research fields) 2. Identification/approach: what can Georgia/individual researchers offer potential partners 3. Intensification of contacts to foreign partners (by scientists) 4. Make Georgian research more visible 5. Raise competitiveness of Georgian researchers 6. Improve connection of researchers & industry 7. Address brain drain!! 8. Internationalization of teaching 9. Linking research to key European policy developments 10. Administrative regulations to enable receipt of foreign grants! Flexibility & openness is needed 11. Need of additional funds 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revisit prerequisites (remove admin barriers) for professorship in Georgia (doctoral degree...)
Not important and not urgent	Uncategorized
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support Georgian researchers to raise bibliometric indicators 	

Which ongoing activities do you consider successful, and why?	
Important and urgent	Important but not urgent
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trainings for researchers (grant writing, raising the profile) 2. internal funding of conference participations 3. These activities to be intensified! 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Informing researchers about (international) funding opportunities
Not important and not urgent	Uncategorized

What new activities/measures could support this?	
Important and urgent	Important but not urgent
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support proposal writing for international grants 2. Support open access publication 3. Incentivize (reward) researchers who publicize internationally, or make obligatory certain publication activities in high ranked journals 4. Financial means are required for these activities!!! 5. Payment of PhD students 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attractive measures for reintegration of scientists coming back from abroad 2. International programs for supporting internationalization of teaching (neighboring countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan) & Europe) 3. Bring in foreign (international) specialists, researchers
Not important and not urgent	Uncategorized
-	-

Virtual table 2 “Topics/STI”

Prioritization

What are current and future priority topics for international cooperation (thematic areas and cross-cutting issues)?	
Important and urgent	Important but not urgent
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support key policies of EU-Georgia cooperation and Association Agreement 2. EU Green Deal Policy, adopting societies to global challenges 3. Innovation 4. Application of the endemic bacterial collections for ecological, food and beverage processing and other technological processes, e.g. using local bacteria to degrade toxic materials and remove C from the air 5. waste management and recycling, Circular economy 6. Interdisciplinarity 7. One Health (connect all sectors), pandemic research (including mental health) 8. Biotechnology (e.g. medical, food, nano) 9. Biological and chemical terrorism 10. Engineering (e.g. new materials, computer sciences, programming) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cyber security 2. Data sciences
Not important and not urgent	Uncategorized
-	-

What are the strengths of the Georgian STI system to respond to these priorities?	
Important and urgent	Important but not urgent
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing nr of young researchers 2. Innovation-funding opportunities existing for initial kick-off 3. EU programmes that Georgia is managing 4. Associated Country to Horizon Europe 5. Improved teaching methodology according to EU standards 6. High motivation of scientists to participate in projects 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good equipment and facilities available
Not important and not urgent	Uncategorized

Where would you see the need to further develop the Georgian STI system?	
Important and urgent	Important but not urgent
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a roadmap and clear action plan that is independent from politicians for 5-10 years 2. Mutual projects 3. More funding opportunities for scientists to carry out research projects 4. Need to build future scientific basis (e.g. PhD, access to international research) 5. Tools for start-ups to include science 6. Trainings and support for researchers to adopt or transfer projects to business ideas 7. Platform / list of scientists (project ideas, specific fields) to help finding industrial partners for commercialization (and to internationalize products and themselves) 8. Tool to connect with interested partners /industry abroad 9. Improve connection/communication between industry and science 10. Teaching and research perspectives 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encouraging scientists to work interdisciplinarity and cross-country/region 2. Translate priorities into action 3. Improve laboratory equipment and technical basis including capacities
Not important and not urgent	Uncategorized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mobility programmes for young scientists to build networks ✓ Tools to include customer-orientation and start-up activities in scientific projects, e.g. scientific validations of start-up products, applied research 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Needed balance between basic and applied research

Virtual table 3 “Countries/stakeholders”

Prioritization

With which countries/regions would you recommend to cooperate in the future, and why?	
Important and urgent	Important but not urgent
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Germany, Austria, France, UK/ Europe; (e.g. biophysics): unique structures/centers; lasers (in the field of nanotechnology); Aim: find the best centers and cooperate with them 2. USA (cooperation with universities) 3. regional universities could be better used, knowledge transfer needed 4. Reunion with UK important, no funds at the moments 5. Recommendation: look for suitable partners all over the world depending on their expertise; strengthening particular skills for starting joint projects, online collaboration should be extended (skills), EU funding calls should be followed strongly, collaboration with local authorities/business especially with regional universities could be better used, knowledge transfer needed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asian countries: some collaborations, Japan, China, South Korea (e.g. in the field of biotechnology) 2. Iran’s and Turkey’s cooperation related to specific topics (examples of terms of the approaches)
Not important and not urgent	Uncategorized
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Israel 2. Africa in cooperation with EU countries (e.g. global challenges) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes: decreasing cooperation, less projects! Language skills, lack of doctoral degree programs, additional push for scientists! Involvement of young scientists! 2. Success: ERASMUS+, Info days, meetings organized or supported by ministries

Which stakeholders/platforms in other countries/regions would you recommend for future STI cooperation activities, and why?	
Important and urgent	Important but not urgent
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DG Devco (Link at governmental level) 2. Links to innovators and industry (e.g. start-up community – bridge for networking and sharing ideas and opportunities) 3. Research centers from US and building partnership with them 4. Donors e.g. VW Foundation, DAAD 5. Use of online platform: research gate 6. Regular meetings among researchers and policy makers, scientists and innovators (bottom-up processes), e.g. Industry Policy Committee 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Involvement of embassies (e.g. in the field Green Deal) 2. Access to brokerage events
Not important and not urgent	Uncategorized
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chambers of commerce (for business sector)

Comparison of documents

Document title, article, page/ Ministry	Similar topic/stakeholder/programme/country etc
Government programme 2021-2024, p.40, Article 3.4	
Innovation for sustainable development- UNECE, p.15 “Enabling and promoting linkages, especially between the private sector and applied research, carries significant potential	
Unified strategy for Education and science for 2017-2021. Article 5.1, 5.5.1	

Which priorities can implement MoESCS and which SRNSFG?

MoESCS	SRNSFG
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intensification of contacts to foreign partners (by scientists) 2. Improve connection of researchers & industry 3. Internal funding of conference participations 4. Support open access publication 5. Incentivize (reward) researchers who publicize internationally, or make obligatory certain publication activities in high ranked journals 6. Support key policies of EU-Georgia cooperation and Association Agreement 7. pandemic research 8. Mobility programmes for young scientists, to build networks

SRNSFG relevant priorities (max 5)

1. Mobility programmes for young scientists, to build networks
2. Improve connection of researchers & industry
3. Support key policies of EU-Georgia cooperation and Association Agreement
4. Support open access publication
5. Pandemic research