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# Roadmap and Impact Pathways for Georgia's integration into the European Research Area

with emphasis on  
Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation  
of Georgia remit

2023 – 2028



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## Abbreviations

ERA	European Research Area
EU	The European Union
HEU	EU Framework Programme Horizon Europe
HEU Office	Horizon Europe National Office
NCP	National Contact Point
R&I	Research and Innovation
SRNSFG	Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation

## Roadmap for Georgia's integration into the European Research Area with emphasis on SRNSFG remit

<b>Strategic Objectives</b>	<i>Deepening Georgian integration in the European Research Area</i>		<i>Opening opportunities for the Georgian research community in European programmes to facilitate the development of the Georgian Research System and its approximation to the European Standards</i>		<i>Developing the Horizon Europe National Office as a key national support structure for Georgian participation in HEU programmes</i>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<i>Increased number of project proposals, submitted by Georgian scholars and institutions in EU R&amp;I programmes</i>		<i>The increased success rate of Georgian proposals in the EU R&amp;I programme</i>	<i>Greater and active participation of Georgian scholars in SRNSFG's international grant calls</i>	<i>Shared best practices and established strong networks between scholars and organizations/communication platform engaged</i>
<b>Outputs</b>	<i>Capacity building of researchers and institutions for competitive proposal submission in international funding schemes</i>		<i>Awareness raising about international funding perspectives for Georgian scholars</i>		<i>Active information exchange activities and effective process of sharing best practices and relevant expertise</i>
<b>Activities</b>	<i>SRNSFG participation and active engagement in EU activities on R&amp;I</i>	<i>Guide designing new project proposals for HEU grant calls</i>	<i>To train in the proposal writing</i> <i>Assistance for Georgian organizations in partner search</i>	<i>Dissemination of targeted information regarding EU funding programs via appropriate communication platforms</i>	<i>Capacity building of the NCP network within the Horizon Europe National Office</i>
<b>Inputs</b>	<i>Political willingness from Georgia to support Georgian research internationalization</i> <i>Georgian Science Community's willingness and engagement towards active participation in international R&amp;I programmes and schemes</i> <i>SRNSFG's readiness in supporting partnership schemes and missions, conducted by the EU in R&amp;I</i> <i>SRNSFG's established Bilateral and Multilateral Relations</i> <i>Established Georgian Horizon Europe National Office</i>				

## Introduction

Integration into the European Research Area is seen as one of the national priorities and endeavors. Integration into the ERA is essential for the development of research potential in Georgia. Association with the EU framework Programme Horizon Europe is viewed as one of the main instruments for development and progress in this regard. Therefore, the roadmap presents itself as a pathway for future activities and objectives.

## Strategic Objectives



### Deepening Georgian Integration in the European Research Area

It is integral for Georgia to become part of the European Research Area to both develop and integrate modern research principles in its national science system as well as take part in and benefit from the international research landscape which is being carried out in ERA to overcome global obstacles and challenges. Georgia sees itself as a member of the European scientific community and family, therefore all efforts are being made with this consideration in mind.



### Opening opportunities for Georgian research communities in European programmes to facilitate the development of the Georgian Research System and its approximation to the European Standards

One of the priorities for SRNSFG is to create opportunities for Georgian researchers to enhance their participation in Research and Innovation European Programmes and encourage them to take full advantage of the opportunities these programmes provide, which will reinforce research systems in the long run. Georgia fully appreciates the evolvement of cross-cutting issues and principles within ERA. Georgia intends to support the implementation of these principles in its local research and innovation environment.



### Developing the Horizon Europe National Office as a key national support structure for Georgian participation in HEU programs

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia has established Horizon EU Office as a national support system that plays a pivotal role in mobilizing and supporting participation in Horizon Europe. Development of the HEU Office in direction to strategic objective is to spread information, increase knowledge about Horizon Europe, support the Georgian Research institutions in their engagement to the portfolio that EU programmes offer, identify relevant applicants, provide guidance and advice to applicants and project participants, offer pieces of training capacity buildings and training activities and financial incentive schemes.

The office is the link between the Georgian scientific community and the relevant structures of the European Commission.

## Outcomes



Increased number of project proposals, submitted by Georgian scholars and institutions in EU R&I programmes.

Overall, the most direct route for integration into ERA is the participation of Georgian researchers and institutions in European Research Programmes and projects. A high participation rate ensures effective outcomes which will serve mutual benefits. Submitting proposals will introduce the Georgian research community to research topics of European relevance, provide integration in consortia with European collaboration partners, deepen the experience with European programs, and in this way build a basis for further successful participation.

Through the joint effort of the foundation and the Georgian HEU Office showing potential participants the opportunities of Horizon Europe and European programmes the improved capacity of Georgian researchers to engage with European instruments is translated into increased participation.



The increased success rate of Georgian proposals in EU R&I programmes

In recent years, Georgia has made substantial advancements in integration in the European Research Area, created a good foundation of relations/potential partners for participation in future projects, and gained collective and individual knowledge about the participation in Horizon projects. Increased participation supported by HEU Office could be seen as the prerequisite for a higher success rate and effective integration into EU programmes.



Greater and active participation of Georgian Scholars in SRNSFG's international grant calls

Deepening the integration of Georgia in the European Research Area is essential for the development of research potential in Georgia. Targeted programmes at the national level provided by SRNSFG serve as a pathway to this objective. The goal of SRNSFG towards international networking is to improve the professional development of researchers, to accelerate the process of scientific discovery through the exchange of research results and ideas, and to prepare and enable researchers for multi-team international collaborations.



Shared best practices and established strong networks between scholars and organizations/ communication platform engaged

The foundation is eager to build strong international partnerships that could serve as the basis for new research networks and collaboration. It will give the chance to widen the opportunities for international collaboration of Georgian scientists.

One of the main goals of the national HEU Office is to establish close ties among thematic NCP groups, and encourage an exchange of information between networks with an overall improved and professionalized NCP service.

## Outputs



Capacity building of Researchers and institutions for competitive proposal submission in international funding schemes

Foundation in collaboration with the Horizon Europe office will assume the responsibility of organizing targeted trainings and workshops webinars and other related capacity-building activities for Georgian researchers. In this way, the research communities will have the opportunities to foster the capacities to engage in European programmes, build networks of collaboration partners, and improve their skills in proposal writing.



Raising awareness about international funding perspectives for Georgian Scholars and institution

Through targeted communication and a diversified approach to awareness raising, which includes appropriate technical tools such as matchmaking platforms, and addressing also the specificities of Georgian regions, the possibilities for the Georgian research community in the involvement of EU funding programmes will be fostered. With a joint contribution of SRNSFG and HEU Office to the activities linked to information campaigns and awareness-raising meetings, Georgian scholars will be more well-oriented in the EU schemes and will be capable of a targeted approach to the relevant programmes.



Active information exchange activities and effective process of sharing best practices and relevant expertise

Established close ties with the Georgian research institutions and key actors of the scientific community to create an integrated information network through the NCP system coordinated by the Georgian Horizon Europe Office. This information network established by the Foundation and the Georgian HEU Office strengthens the exchange between contact points of the EU funding

programmes, and is supported by participating in EU-funded NCP initiatives to ensure a best practice approach in further developing the Georgian support system.

## Activities



### SRNSFG participation and active engagement in EU activities on R&I

SRNSFG actively strives to engage in collaboration with European funding agencies to participate in EU programmes in specific areas of strategic interest, to foster institutional development and enhance the capacity of the Georgian science system, specifically to foster brain circulation across the ERA through the mobility of researchers and innovators, to support the development of networks of scholars, scientists, researchers and innovators, policymakers and research managers to put all their assets to the service of the ERA. Additionally, the Foundation is ready to engage with relevant Georgian stakeholders to deliberate on the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda in Georgia.



### SRNSFG complementary internationalization activities

SRNSFG's bilateral schemes specially designed for the fellowship and joint research programmes complement the needs and support Georgian researchers in their internationalization activities- SRNSFG will continuously assess the need to adapt national instruments to increase participation in European programmes and will adequately expand the bilateral schemes. SRNSFG's funding programs seek to support researchers by providing them with different mobility opportunities for their further career development.

The Foundation strives to support existing bilateral cooperation and identify new partner organizations on international levels to establish new collaboration schemes which include the development of mobility programs targeting different level and carrier stages and networking grants (incl. conference grants), thus expanding the opportunities of the Georgian research community to participate in joint international research activities.



### Provide guidance for designing New Project Proposals for HEU Grant Calls

The Georgian Horizon Europe office is the key actor to assist in designing new project proposals for Horizon Europe grant calls. In this regard, the Foundation with the cooperation of the Georgian Horizon Europe Office will carry out information campaigns to increase knowledge about Horizon Europe and other EU programmes, support research institutions in identifying relevant applicants, provide guidance and advice to applicants and project participants, and offer financial incentive schemes to foster participation in EU programmes.





### To train in proposal writing/ Assistance for Georgian organizations in partner search

Coordinated by the Foundation and the Georgian HEU Office to organize special targeted events are going to be organized to support Georgian researchers via pieces of training, workshops, and round-table discussions to improve their skills in proposal writing and provide specific assistance in identifying suitable partners and partner organizations, including the dissemination of information about networking events organized at the international level.



### Dissemination of targeted information regarding EU funding programs via appropriate communication platforms

Developing and using appropriate platforms (eg. information series, meetings, web platform integrated into the Georgian system) the Georgian Horizon Europe Office is providing relevant information related to the funding possibilities to all stakeholders of the Georgian science system.



### Capacity building of the NCP network within the HE office

The Horizon Europe National Office aims to support the capacity building of NCPs through guidance on choosing relevant Horizon Europe topics and types of action, advice on administrative procedures and contractual issues, training and assistance in proposal writing, Distribution of documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals, etc.), and assistance in partner search.

## Inputs



### Political Willingness from Georgia to support the Georgian research internationalization process

The development of STIs is pivotal to Georgia's future for ensuring competitiveness and societal well-being. With the view to share new knowledge and bring groundbreaking ideas, Georgia set as a priority to intensifying international cooperation in all sectors of the Georgian science system.



### Georgian Science Community's willingness and Engagement towards active participation in international R&I programmes and schemes

Georgian scientific communities acknowledge the need to participate in the world's biggest research and innovation programme, Horizon Europe, and other European programmes and strive for opportunities to integrate research activities in an international context to foster quality and sustainability.



#### SRNSFG's readiness in supporting partnership schemes and missions, conducted by the EU in Research and Innovation

The foundation as the main funding organization is fully sharing the state policy concerning the Association Agreement and is committed to supporting the objectives defined by partnership schemes and missions.



#### SRNSFG's established Bilateral and Multilateral Relations

SRNSFG's strategic focus on establishing partnerships with international counterparts to intensify the internationalization process of the Georgian science system complements the activities at the EU level.



#### Established Georgian Horizon Europe National Office

With a strategic long-term and goal-oriented perspective to succeed in the European competition, and to participate in the collaboration that best supports the strategic objectives, the Georgian Horizon Europe National Office was established as a one-stop shop to support the stakeholders of the Georgian science system in their endeavors towards European integration in STI.