**United Strategy for Education and Science (2017-2021) Monitoring Report for Strategic Objectives and Action Plan Performance**

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**Introduction**

Providing high-quality and available education and science system is one of the main priority of the Government of Georgia and is declared as the cornerstone of the country's development, which is presented in the new social - economic development strategy of the Government "Georgia 2020" and Georgian Government Four-Pointed Plan of reforms;

Georgia has achieved the significant progress in reforming the education and science system in recent years. The country has implemented a number of reforms aimed to transform the Post-Soviet education system and creating a new one, that would correspond to the fast-changing world requirements and would be competitive on the international arena. For last 5 years it increased from 650 million to 1.1 billion, the GPD reached 3.1% in 2017. Despite the fundamental reforms, there still remain many challenges related to education and retraining quality services and its equal availability for everyone;

In order to effectively combat these challenges, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia elaborated a strategic document, which is based on ongoing reforms in the country, analysis of achievements and challenges in education, science and retraining sphere. "The Unified Strategy of Education and Science of Georgia 2017-2021" was approved by ordinance N533 of the Government of Georgia on December 7, 2017.

The strategy includes all areas of education and science: early/preschool upbringing and education, general, vocational and higher education project of 4 educations, adult education, science and researches. Principles of lifelong education are maintained in the strategic document (LLL) and it provides access to different levels of education. The document fully envisages the requirements of the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union, also recommendations of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe and is in compliance with the UN Sustainable Development goals.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Strategy of the Education and Science of Georgia are a major mechanism for the implementation of the strategy itself and determine the measurement and impact of the results. Together with the Strategy and Action Plan the logical framework of the Strategy and indicators of specific goals and strategic tasks have been approved.

Considering the circumstance, that strategy and Action plan has been approved earlier in December, term for report preparation was rather restricted. 2017 is the very first year, when strategy and action plan performance has been monitoring, which is prepared to the Policy Planning Manual, approved by the Government of Georgia. Irrespective of limited time, comprehensive information was collected regarding strategic tasks and activity performance quality along with obstructions, revealed over the course of performance. Through coordination with respective service of Administration of Government of Georgia, Strategic Planning and International Relations Department, structural units of the Ministry and Legal Entities of Public Law, operated under the Ministry has prepared monitoring report of Strategy and Action Plan performance for 2017-2021.

The strategy covers five realms, with separate specific purposes, which are to be attained through strategic tasks from one to five. Considerable progress was sighted in terms of specific goal achievements. Each of the them will be outlined in introduction whereas, meticulous information will be represented under each of the strategic tasks.

**Preschool education.**

The Specific goal about preschool education canvas boosting the availability to high-quality preschool education and promotion of school age kids to be well prepared for school. For this purpose, only task is drafted: to promote high quality, inclusive and equally available preschool education system.

To rise availability to high-quality preschool education, largely depending on the infrastructural projects, developed by the municipalities. Thousands of preschools have been built and hundreds of them repaired throughout Georgia. In accordance with the available data, 1447 preschools operate with ever-growing number. In Support of UNICEF, “array of indicators and data to be recorded to the establishments registry and rule of registration” is elaborated which will be tabled to the government for approval in an immediate future. Approval of given instrument will support unified database operation and statistic processing possibility within the country.

Phased integration of education component is likely to be regarded as huge progress in terms of preschool establishments, bottomed on the law “On early and preschool upbringing and education”, adopted by the Parliament of Georgia on July 8, 2016.

Under the virtue of this law and pursuant to the first paragraph of the statute #192/n of December 12, 2017 of the Minister of Education and Science, “Framework Document of vocation education programs for educationalist” was approved, whereas “State Standards for early and preschool upbringing and education” was affirmed pursuant to the first paragraph of #488 decree of October 30, 2017; Apart from this, Vocational training program for educationalists has been prepared.

Since 2017 was the first year for implementation the law, significant and grounded advancement to the goal indicator - “number of preschool establishments, where education component is inculcated” will become apparent later this year.

**General Education**

Specific goal of general education is ensuring availability to high-quality education and educational outcomes that meet national and International standards for students to prepare them for future life. Goal indicator is the improved academic performance of students.

Significant progress is achieved in terms of all five strategic tasks of general education, which serves as the most meaningful and volumetric part of the strategy.

Tens of schools were constructed and hundreds of them rehabilitated partly or fully within the project of “Millennium Change Account – Georgia” and financed by the Ministry. (Meticulous information is provided in Strategic Objective Report) Some of the education component of Millennium challenge aims to rehabilitate public schools in region and equip them with natural labs, to elaborate and inculcate program for caring school infrastructure, to provide trainings for the purpose of professional development of tutors of natural science and English language and public school directors, to decide on and execute of local school assessment in natural sciences and to ensure participation of Georgia in international evaluation. Huge investments are made in this direction. Every school involved in rehabilitation season of 2016-2017 were equipped with natural labs, reagents required for natural subject tuition were purchased and shipped. Ministry of Education and Science improves transportation service to boost geographic availability to all schools.

New national plan of education was approved on basic stage, implemented as a pilot project in 15 schools. The process of inculcation in some of the general educational establishments have been launched since 2018-2019 academic year. Subject standards of basic steps have been revised and annual programs have been prepared. National plan of education for updated basic step will be approved in an immediate future. Tuition of civil education was strengthened on basic level and were focused on urgent topics like: healthy lifestyle, problems of early marriage, violence, bully, financial literacy, environment protection, protection of natural and cultural heritage, minimization of disaster risks etc. Having approval of the basic stage, plan of national education for medium stage will be revised. Respective to the concept, medium stage will cover profile tuition. Rule for classification along with technical and content criteria, selective unit was also approved, term, and action plan of Classification was specified and classification of school manuals/series of primary stage was announced. E-system of administering the classification was developed. ([www.grifireba.emis.ge](http://www.grifireba.emis.ge)).

“Program to support teachers professional development and career development has been operating “at National center for Teacher professional development “since 2016. In the aftermath of successful activity:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Moved to the next level and granted the status | 2015-2016 years | 2016-2017 years |
| Mentor |  | 9 |
| Head | 347 | 2155 |
| Lead | 2 | 31 |
| Total | 349 | 2195 |

Principal part of E-school - pilot program for implementation school E-magazine, completed in 2017. Within the framework of new program arrival, topical discussions were conducted with Public school teachers in E-school management. Every teachers from 302 public schools (various regions) have undergone retraining for later in 2016, whereas optional trainings were delivered to 740 teachers (five regions) from 57 schools in 2017. Hence, E-school pilot program covered 359 Public schools in total including November, 2017. Program is planned to be extended in 2018, that would support monitoring as well. Action plan and strategy of inclusive education were elaborated in 2017, which will be approved by the Minister of Education and Science earlier in 2018. Action plan canvas the measures to be taken for inclusive education development on each stage of education. To ensure space tailored to the people for special needs, measures for positive behavior management and elaboration of integrated class pattern for autistics are to be developed. 1861 educationalists underwent trainings in various directions of inclusive education.

Within the program of the Ministry “my first computer”, computers are annually handed over to the first-class students of Public schools, their teachers and advanced learners as well. In the framework of “Free manuals”, textbooks are handed to the beneficiaries, specified by the program.

Since 2017 the Ministry has launched allocation of grants to the schools for delivering free classes. Purpose of the program intends to ensure amusing and interesting educational environment and public-school strengthening. Financing covered labor remuneration of a teacher along with remuneration of administration and management including resource fund. Extracurricular activities were funded in 1150 public schools, namely: 754 sport projects, 637 – in terms of literacy, 734 – art/culture and 804 schools were funded for intellectual –cognitive direction. Given activities encompassed approximately 45 000 students.

In 2017, more than 10 000 students from school with fewer students took part in summer camps. The camps were instituted in directions as follows: sport, art, enterprise. Learning Olympiads are arranged, involving approximately 100 000 students annually.

Under the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science, project of healthy lifestyle promotion is provided for school student; pursuant to the alterations introduced to the provisions of resource officers, one of its task is to promote healthy lifestyle.

Subprogram of distant learning of Georgian language has been operating since 2017; Distant learning patterns of Georgian language was bottomed by specific segment of our society living abroad. As for the end of 2017, program includes 36 countries, 35 Georgian teachers and 230 students.

In terms of the indicator “Students improved academic performance”, comparison of exam outcomes for 2016 and 2017 academic year will highlight significant progress in some of the subjects, in Math and Foreign Language above all.

Results of 2016 data (12the class):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Class | Subject | Completed the exam | Could not get a positive assessment | 10 score | Get a positive assignment |
| 2016 | 12 | Biology | 2358 | 782 | 2 | 1576 |
| 2016 | 12 | Geography | 1634 | 301 | 0 | 1333 |
| 2016 | 12 | Foreign Language | 43022 | 6524 | 539 | 36498 |
| 2016 | 12 | History | 41117 | 1923 | 181 | 39194 |
| 2016 | 12 | Mathematics | 42777 | 5910 | 418 | 36867 |
| 2016 | 12 | Physics | 3314 | 1317 | 0 | 1997 |
| 2016 | 12 | Georgian Language and Literature | 41357 | 1146 | 392 | 40211 |
| 2016 | 12 | Chemistry | 4410 | 460 | 33 | 3950 |

Data of 2017 year (12the Class):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Class | Subject | Completed the exam | Could not get a positive assessment | 10 score | Get a positive assignment |
| 2017 | 12 | Biology | 2566 | 961 | 4 | 1605 |
| 2017 | 12 | Geography | 1582 | 241 | 0 | 1341 |
| 2017 | 12 | Foreign Language | 42817 | 6486 | 3070 | 36331 |
| 2017 | 12 | History | 39220 | 2003 | 227 | 37217 |
| 2017 | 12 | Mathematics | 42218 | 6323 | 1127 | 35895 |
| 2017 | 12 | Physics | 4864 | 2696 | 0 | 2168 |
| 2017 | 12 | Georgian Language and Literature | 38734 | 1092 | 979 | 37642 |
| 2017 | 12 | Chemistry | 5017 | 898 | 64 | 4119 |

**Vocational Education**

Vocational education intends boosting the number of vocational students to support socio-economic development of the country and developing their professional and general skills to ensure their competitiveness. Whereas, indicator of enrollment to the vocational establishments are considered as index.

Significant advancements were highlighted in terms of three strategic tasks specified for reaching the goal. In 2017, vocational education programs were one of the main subject of working, covering implementation – inculcation of new patterns and dual programs. To meet the requirements of labor market, more than 80 standards and up to 50 programs were worked out and finalized in active involvement of employers. Within the grant program of MCA-Georgia, more than 40 programs, complying with the international standards were implemented and four new dual programs were arrived as well.

Concept for internationalization of vocational education is being developed involved EU technical support project. National qualification framework was elaborated, which is full conformity with the framework of European qualifications. New standards of authorization for vocational education establishments are already prepared. To develop transparent system for teacher’s advancement and career development, last edition of the legal package documents is in progress. Respective to the needs of vocational education teachers and alterations introduced to this realm, capacity development activities of vocational education teachers are executed in directions as follows: modular learning of pedagogic course, inclusive vocational education, teachers training in enterprise, international mobility etc.

Geographic availability to the vocational education has improved as well; students visited to the branches operating in Kazbegi, Tianeti and Lagodekhi municipalities. NAPR construction collage “Construct 2” has been formed at Zestaponi municipality. Preparatory works have already been launched in Kaspi, Khulo and Chokhatauri municipalities to incorporate vocational educational establishments.

To develop the system of vocational education on the basis of lifelong learning, new law on vocational education has already been finalized.

Number of students with special needs, enrolled to the vocational education programs, exceeded 330 in 2017, triggered by availability of special services and adaptive infrastructures in College. Vocational education and optional educational services fully tailored to the needs are equally available for ethnic minorities and IPDs. Vocational education establishments would deliver short terms courses to job seekers, prisoners and former prisoners under state funding.

To boost popularity and attraction of vocational education, new brand and communication strategy of vocational education has been developed, which is to be executed since 2018. Within the component of vocational orientation, public schools engendered implementation of activities to develop labor/vocational skills of students. Within cooperation of vocational education establishments and public schools, 200 projects have been developed in 138 public schools. More than 3,000 students engaged in the classes for labor skills development.

As for the indicator, no increase in number of vocational students were observed in 2017, that envisages reforms in vocational programs and preparation of new modular programs involving employers. Program authorization specified admissible quotas of students, for each program. Increased tuition period and specified quotas resulted in shrinking annual free places and number of students, enrolled in 2017; To respond up mentioned challenge, the Ministry keeps supporting inculcation of new, high-quality programs and rises student quotas through vocational establishments development in various municipalities. In 2017, rehabilitation has been finalized on three new locations and preparatory works launched to create opportunities of gaining vocational education in four new municipalities.

**Higher Education**

Availability and internationalization of high-quality higher education was considered as specific goal of Higher education program, that serves for personal and professional development and employment improvement. Whereas, rise of number of students having high scores along with the number of foreign ones are specified as an indicator;

For the purpose of education internationalization, Ministry of Education and Science initiated special program “Study in Georgia”, which aims to promote Georgia as international educational Hub. Hence, the Ministry of Education and Science actively cooperates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Programs, supporting education and qualification rise abroad pretty intensified lately.

To ensure high-quality education system, updated standards of authorization for Higher education establishments were approved in 2017 that ensures effective system for process internationalization, survey, development and art/creative activity support system in attracting and involvement new cadres in research activity.

To eradicate so called “educational deadlock”, new law upon education is drafted. Its inaction will create solid legal ground to execute the concept of lifelong learning. Systemic changes are in progress, that will foster basic tuition acknowledgement and will enable students to prolong their education to higher educational institutions.

The Ministry of education and Science carries out funding different programs for boosting the availability to high-quality education: state grants and various programs of funding, social programs for bachelor and master, financing tuition for affected students, residing in the villages beyond divisional line along with supporting programs for students living in Abkhazia. Special program (1+4) for Learning Georgian language operates for Azerbaijan and Armenian students. The state provides full funding of bachelor programs of main priority. A year education program for teachers’ preparation (60 credits) operated at State and private institutes of Georgia worth mentioning as well.

Funding system of Higher educational establishment are in active progress. World banks are directly engaged in the process. The universities and international experts provide consultations.

It’s almost impossible to obtain complete information on indicators in terms of student with high academic performance, due to lack of united base and only establishments, possessing this information are Universities themselves. As for the second indicator, significant advancement was revealed: In 2016 numbers of foreign students amounted to 6,342 whereas in the year of 2017 – 9475.

**Science**

The realm of science aims to upgrade and internationalize the system of science, technology and innovations to create new knowledge and support sustainable development of the country. Whereas increase in number of publications in International database and index of quoting is considered as an indicator. Number of joint projects and programs with internal disciplinary character; number of young researcher and master and bachelor research programs along with rising of STI funding from International and private sources.

To reach this goal, significant achievement was highlighted in terms of three strategic task. Respective to the increase number of publication in International database, publication of Georgian authors amounted to 346 in 2016; whereas in 2017 they decreased to 301. As for the indicator of patent amount increase, 2 patents are issued within survey, financed by the foundation in 2016 and three are issued in 2017. Respective to the quotation index rise, scientific publication quotation index under Georgian authors amounted to 3560 in 2016 and only 1599 in 2017.

Considering the fact that provisions of grant competition, administered by the foundation has been updated and improved, funding directed to the science and scientific –research programs raised as well. Amount of scientific publications and their quotation indexes are likely to increase in the following year.

Unlike 2016, amount of financial contribution, allocated from EC to Georgian institutions in competition announced within Horizon 2020 has been doubled.

Work has completed on the provision of preparatory grant competition, which envisages insertion of publication in the magazines holding impact factor along with financial support to write grant project or make announcement as coordinator or leader of working package in Horizon 2020. Availability to the similar incentives will provide development of Georgian eco system and European quality advancement.

Significant progress revealed in terms of strengthening mutual International cooperation and International financing sources attraction; In the aftermath of joint grant competition of Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia and Volkswagen Foundation, funding was procured by 4 joint structured doctorate programs of Germany-Georgia instead of one project, planned in advance.

It worth mentioning that, Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia has taken tangible steps to intensify mutual cooperation with various European Foundations (CNR-SRNSFG; CNRS PIC-SRNSFG; TUBITAK-SRNSFG; DAAD; Volkswagen) for the purpose of STI funding rise.

In 2017 Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia has funded 86 grant projects for fundamental survey; same grant competition has financed 86 projects in2016.

Updated provision of grant competition for applied researches with fresh concept was tabled to scientific society, which focuses on intensifying cooperation between private sector and science, interdisciplinary, inter-institutional surveys with further commercial prospects, which will promote sustainable development of the country and integration to EU research space through new knowledge creation.

To popularize science and innovation in the country, holding of International festival for science and innovations every fall became one of the traditions. Scope of Festival 2017 amplified and up to 60 institutions took part in it. More than 250 diverse scientific and cognitive-amusing events took place.

No significant advancement was revealed in terms of multiplication of young researchers in 2017, that makes apparent the need for further tangible actions and depth researches to intensify STI role, status and value in the country.

* **EARLY AND PRESCHOOL UPBRINGING AND EDUCATION**

**Strategic objective: To ensure high quality, inclusive and equally available preschool education system for preschool educational establishments.**

**Report for objective fulfillment:**

To fulfill commitments undertaken by legislation and international agreements, fundamental and broad scaled reform of preschool upbringing and education has launched since 2015. On July 8, 2017, the Parliament of Georgia has adapted the law on “Earle and preschool upbringing and education”, which substantially altered approaches to early and preschool education and provided ground for quality ensuring on this stage of education. According to the existing data, 1447 preschools operate in education system, which employs 5184 caregivers and 600 methodologists.

To ensure school preparedness, Government of Georgia approved “Educational State standard for school preparedness” in 2015. Respective program was implemented, equipped with guide for caregiver, collection of activities and training module for preschool teachers. Retraining was provided for preschool establishment methodologists and teachers.

Till 2016, preschools of Georgia served as caregivers and were focused on child care. Educational component was neglected. Respectively, children preparation level for school was pretty low. Low school preparedness is one of the principal reason for poor quality of general education. According to the survey, part of the students, drop out of preschool education, lacked required cognitive and non-cognitive skills like emotional, social and physical ones. Irrespective of taken steps, given problem still remains as one of the challenges that requires further systemic work.

To reach the goal, envisaged by the strategic task, follow up measures were pursued.

Is support of UN children foundation, Ministry of Education and Science has elaborated State standards for early and preschool upbringing. The standards were approved under #478 Government’s decree On October 27, 2017. Familiarizing with standards and their further inculcation at preschool establishments are included in the plan for 2018.

Professional standard for educationalists have been elaborated as well. The standard was approved under the order#478, October 27, 2017.

Framework document for preschool teacher has been elaborated as well.

In 2016-2017 program for school preparedness was implemented at 899 preschools in every region of Georgia. 23276 children enjoyed this program. Given program has been executed in 14 school centers, involving 435 children. School preparedness program was implemented at 171 preschool establishments in Tbilisi and 15 961 of them have enrolled to the schools. The municipalities are actively provided with consultations on inculcation the program by the Ministry. In support of UN children foundation, implementation of the program is under monitoring in 26 preschool establishments in Tbilisi and regions as well. Outcomes are being analyzed and recommendations are being drafted.

In cooperation with preschool education development division, National center for teachers’ professional development implemented training program for teacher professional development. In accordance with the program, methodologists/specialists of preschool education will be trained in 2018. Training will be delivered by certified methodologists and specialists. Coach candidates will be selected as well. In the aftermath of this training, educationalist will be awarded status of coach and will deliver trainings for other caregivers in their regions; having undergone this training, they will be granted the status of tutor.

“Training modules of professional development for pedagogy”, “array of indicators and data to be recorded to the establishments registry and rule of registration” and normative act “on approval the monitoring system in public establishments, for the purpose of inculcation, development and improvement of the state standards for preschool upbringing and education.”

*Indicator:*

1. *Increase in number of preschool establishments, executing school preparedness program*

It was found out to be impossible to separate data since 2016. Approximately 900 preschool educational establishments would execute school preparedness program for 2016-2017.Having approved “the registration rule for preschool educational establishments”, data will be easily collected and comparison with the data existing will be further facilitated.

1. *Indicator for increase in number of tutors at preschool establishments*

Status of tutor hasn’t been identified for 2016-2017. This process is likely to launch in 2018. This statistic was not being processed recently. Similar to the previous indicator, data will be easily collected and confidential statistic will be processed as soon as the government approves “array of indicators and data to be recorded to the establishments registry and rule of registration” for preschool establishments.

* **GENERAL EDUCATION**

**Strategic objective: to ensure universal equal availability to high-quality general education.**

**Objective fulfillment report:**

To improve quality of education on every stage of general education and ensure equal availability to every student including national minorities, children with special needs, socially vulnerable, residing adjacent to the divisional line of occupied territories and students of high mountainous regions are one of the main priorities of the Ministry. To boost geographic availability to the schools, Ministry of Education and Science is improving transportation service. Opportunity of obtaining inclusive education attracts particular attention. In support of alternative possibilities to gain general education along with creative approach and integration of modern technologies, availability to high-quality education will be risen in every school.

Construction of four schools including large number of children (more than 60 students) and three schools with small number of students (20 children) have finished this year, nine schools including large number of students (more than 60 students) and sixteen schools having small number of students (20 students) are under construction, which will be fully adaptive;

Partly arrangement and rehabilitation of toilets including availability to the pupils with special needs has completed in 31 public schools and works are in progress in 17 schools. 37 public schools were funded.

Project, implemented by “Millennium Change Account – Georgia” is worth mentioning in terms of infrastructure improvement and availability of education respectively. Component of general education intends to rehabilitate public schools in the region of Georgia and equip them with natural Labs, including program elaboration/inculcation of school care and providing trainings for teachers of English language and natural sciences and to school directors for the purpose of professional development; the project covered elaboration of local and school assessments and implementation and participation of Georgia in international assessments.

Rehabilitation season for 2016-2017 covers 30 public schools in the regions of Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Shida Kartli, Samtskhe –Javakheti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Qvemo Svaneti. As of the second quarter of 2017, rehabilitation of 29 public schools out of 30 ones are fully completed and some components are being finished/remedied in the last school. Aftermath, up to 70 000 m2 has been rehabilitated, and educational environment will be improved for 10 000 students.

Procurement of rehabilitation/construction works for 28 public school in Kakheti and Qvemo Kartli regions have completed for the second quarter of 2017. Contractors commenced construction work performance. In Kakheti region, three optional schools will be rehabilitated for spring ,2018, hence rehabilitation works haven’t been procured due to incompliance with prescribed qualification requirements and price.

Purchase was successfully executed and rehabilitation project documentation are being processed for schools of 2018-2019 rehabilitation seasons like: Imereti, Guria, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Adjara public schools.

Pilot program for school care and operation initiated in 2017 in 100 school approximately, including fully rehabilitated schools within compact, recently constructed and rehabilitated schools under ESIDA funding and all public schools in two municipalities. (Kazbegi and Tianeti)

According to the component of compact, budget is slowly utilized due to stock-taking biddings, haven’t been announced by LEPL ESIDA. Funding for Schools operation and care support will be allocated soon after Georgian part procures given service and provides expenses.

All public schools, rehabilitated under the foundation will be equipped with school scientific labs and respective reactive. Over accounting period of 2017, 30 public schools were equipped with items, material and reagent at about 140 names. For the teachers of Biology, Physics and Chemistry were provided with guide with methodical admonitions for conducting lab works. 103 natural science teachers were retrained for safety conducting of lab tests. Every school involving in 2016-2017 rehabilitation season have been completed, apart from this, reagents, required for natural subject tuition were purchased and stocked as well.

Within the program of the Ministry “my first computer”, computers are annually handed over to the first-class students of Public schools, their teachers and advanced learners as well. In the framework of “Free manuals”, textbooks are handed to the beneficiaries, specified by the program.

To ensure space tailored to the people in need for special education, measures for positive behavior management and elaboration of integrated class pattern for autistics are to be developed. Namely: On once integrated class for autistic students opened in 2017. Specialists for integrated class provide optional, team and individual lectures for them to ensure their integration with classroom. (Integrated classes operated 10 public schools for 2016, which included children having hearing problems (1), disorders of various types (1), average, grave intellectual and multiple disorders (1), autistic students (7). 8 Projects were funded in 2017, which provided participation of the students with special needs in socio-cultural events (6 similar project was funded in 2016).

Within he subprogram of “Second opportunity for obtaining education for the children beyond classrooms, up to 80 students involved in Social service agency services, engaged in formal education, still keeps going to the schools and dropout cases from their sides are drastically shirked. (Given students were engaged in formal education in 2016).

To improve availability of education to the children beyond inclusive education and “Second opportunity for obtaining education for the children beyond classrooms”, day centers operating under the Ministry of labor, Health and Social Affairs executed monitoring of educational transit program. Outcome and recommendations will be available for later in 2017.

For the purpose of specifying special needs, 959 people were assessed and consulted by multidisciplinary team (1967 959 people were assessed and consulted to specify special needs as of November 2016).

To obtain interpretation authority, employment of assessment tool and identification of persons with special needs, qualification rise trainings was delivered for multidisciplinary team members of the ministry of Education and Science. Apart from this, they have undergone five-day intensive trainings for charting/developing individual tuition plan.

To ensure inclusive education and inculcate measures entailed to the needs, 115 teachers underwent introduction course for teacher professional development (they were handed certificates) at National Centre for teacher professional Development in 2017. They met minimal standard requirements. In 2016, similar course was provided for 235 teachers. Except for this, within regional educational tours (two round), 57 spec. teachers underwent practical course. Similar course was conducted for 30 teachers in 2016.

Trainings in terms of inclusive education were undergone by 1861. 1171 had training undergone for 2016. Teacher of 18 students, special teachers, parents and school administration obtained classes regarding needs for specific student. The program operated in 2017 in pilot mode. Within the program, courses for people with hearing disorders were provided. 195 teachers and other specialists working with students having sensory disorder were retrained in 2017. 187 specialists along with people with sensory disorders underwent trainings on the topic of sensory disorder in 2016.

Subprogram of distant learning of Georgian language commenced in 2016 in pilot mode and has been operating since 2017; Distant learning patterns of Georgian language was bottomed by specific segment of our society living abroad. Purpose of the program is to teach Georgian language and integration with Georgian culture for Georgian emigrants or children from mixed families through distant learning pattern. Georgian teachers employed provided simultaneous mode of teaching for Georgian student living abroad within the age 5-15.

In 2016 on pilot stage 8 students enjoyed distant learning from Great Britain with assistance of two children. As of the end of 2017, the program involved 36 countries, 35 Georgian tutors and 230 students. Approximately 1300 classes have already been delivered. Number of applicants for distant learning is ever-growing. 150 Emigrant students are already registered on the program. Program is planned to be expended for 2018.

*Indicator:*

1. *Decrease in dropout numbers in comprehensive education on the level of mandatory education*

Number of students, who dropped out comprehensive schools before, after a or over academic year. -

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 |
| Private School | 505 | 515 |
| Public School | 3135 | 3029 |
| Total | 3640 | 3544 |

1. *Increase in number of integration of the students, left beyond school*

Number of students, who dropped out comprehensive schools before, after a or over academic year, were back to school next year.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year of return to school | Number of Pupils |
| 2015-16 | 696 |
| 2016-17 | 484 |

Perfect statistic data of indicators has been hard to obtain over years. Nowadays, the problem is partly solved. Ground and reason for student status changing are marked out in dropout module of comprehensive establishment, being processed by information system of LEPL comprehensive establishments.

Follow up categories are marked out in student status changing: removing, expel, remove after undergoing level or status stop.

Ground for status stop might include: a) students family leaves for abroad, b) voucher default for slow students, 3) consecutive absence of student for 90 days; d) other

In case of absence for 90 days, reasons for status stop are specified as follows: a) start working, prolonging education to vocational collage, illness, marrying, decease etc.

**Strategic objective: Education quality improvement will boost possibilities for moving next level of education to ensure vital skills development and better academic performance.**

**Objective fulfillment report:**

New national education plan was approved on its initial stage, which is being inculcating in pilot mode on the base of 15 public schools. Implementation process in undergoing in financial and technical support of foundation INNOVE, under Estonian Ministry of Education and Research pursuant to the trilateral memorandum concluded with the Ministry of Education and Science. In July and September of 2017, training was delivered for pilot school administration representatives of Georgia and tutors of primary education involving Department of National educational plan and Estonian experts. In October 2017, digital technical equipment was handed to the pilot schools by the government of Estonia, that would facilitate their further integration of digital technologies to the process of plan implementation.

Intensive information and workshop meeting with representatives of school administration has been launched since next year.

Methodological guide for tutors of I-IV classes are already implemented on the basis of National education plan. Work on V-VI class guide will be completed earlier in 2018. Given methodological resources will assist to the tutors to plan education process on the basis of National Education plan. Guides provide another novelty for tutors, topics to be processed are selected for several subjects. It will ensure student to percept process around his diversely and totally and to develop skills like: critical and creative thinking, argumentative judgment, skills for research and communication etc.

National education plan inculcation for comprehensive educational establishments of Georgia will be initiated from 2018-2019 academic year.

Subject standards of basic steps have been revised and annual programs have been prepared. National plan of education for updated basic step will be approved in an immediate future. Tuition of civil education was strengthened on basic level and were focused urgent topics like: healthy lifestyle, problems of early marriage, violence, bully, financial literacy, environment protection, protection of natural and cultural heritage, minimization of disaster risks etc. Having approval of the basic stage, plan of national education for medium stage will be revised. Respective to the concept, medium stage will cover profile tuition.

For the purpose of entrepreneurial skills development, relevant issues are integrated to the new subject “Society and me”, stipulated by new educational plan of primary stage. Within revised education plan, Primary and medium stage, entrepreneurial issues will be included in the subject of civil education. Apart from this, standard “Basics for entrepreneurship”, which is designated for 11 class; Manual is created in pursuant to standard.

Pattern and alternative education plan designated for I-IV classes in Math’s and in Georgian language and literature for V-VI classes has been created in 2016. Alternative program in Georgian language and moths will be charted for students having grave/deep intellectual and/or multiple disorder or sensory disorder (blind and deaf) later in 2017. 1500Georgian gestures were procured and popularized for supporting high-quality educational process for students having sensory disorders.

To support effective implementation of education process for students of special needs and for teachers’ assistance, following educational resources were published in 2017; Students book in Georgian language and Math (1st and 2nd part) for students with special needs, Teachers book in Georgian language and Math (1st and 2nd part), guide for teachers - “Educational activities for everyone”, which will familiarize teachers with inclusive tuition method. Up mentioned textbooks will be handed over to the public schools.

Rule for classification along with technical and content criteria, selective unit was also approved, term, and action plan of Classification was specified and classification of school manuals/series of primary stage was announced. Consultations were provided for the authors of textbooks. E-system of administering the classification was developed. ([www.grifireba.emis.ge](http://www.grifireba.emis.ge)). Rule for reviewing the textbooks/ series was approved. Reviewers were selected and manned regarding subjects; they underwent trainings and relevant agreements were concluded. Classification applications and layouts were accepted and checked through E-system of administration. Reviewing process is underway.

*(Basically, announcement of classification of school textbooks lie on respective stage approval of National educational plan.)*

National educational Olympiad takes place annually involving approximately 100 000 students. Unlike previous year, more than three winners were revealed this year – 124 in total. Respective to the procured places, the pupils were awarded by computer devices and accessories worth for GEL 1000, 700, 500 and 50 along with vouchers and diplomas.

* Tournament for informatics was funded by the organization selected through the competition. 13 winners are revealed in three age groups. Respective to the procured places, the pupils were awarded by computer devices and accessories worth for GEL 1000, 700, 500 and 50 along with vouchers and diplomas.
* The Ministry has submitted students in five disciplines: math, Informatics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Compare to the previous year 9 more medals have been procured – 1 gold,4 silver and nine bronze medals along with incentive certificate, which is considered as unprecedented outcome in the history of education of the country. It worth mentioning, Georgian students competed with student from more than 100 successful countries which refers to the high preparation level of Georgia.

Respective to the procured places, the pupils were awarded by monetary prices at amount of GEL 3000, 2000 and 1000.

* To support teacher professional standard and national education plan, 25 new modules were elaborated and 43 existing ones were updated/ for diverse subject and their directions. Project for Five credit module is being elaborated on the basis of skill concept of 21st century.

For the purpose tuition quality improvement, training modules are established and trainings and activities for professional development are executed, pertaining to human rights tuition and share, equality, global and digital citizenship, media literacy, sustainable development, national and mankind value popularization. Trainings of 2017 covered follow up modules:

* Bulling prevention at schools and tolerant culture development support”, 352 tutors were trained. The trainings are still underway.
* Training module “Europe on my class” covers topic “Sustainable development”. 4112 tutors registered for trainings and their outcomes are in process. Total amount of the trained teachers is to be specified.
* Trainings” tuition through Informational Technologies” for teachers of all subjects. Trainings “Effective application of book for basic stage for the teachers of primary level. Both of the trainings involved 7500 tutors.
* New system for teachers’ assessment has been implemented, specifics of working process has been altered, opportunities for professional and career development have been diversified.
* First and the second parts of “Guide for teacher activity, professional and career development” have been elaborated and published. Assessment of Inculcation career advancement plan has been surveyed. Amendment packages to be populated to the plan has been prepared, relevant document including training modules and material required for consultation were translated into Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijan languages, video-instructions of standardized instruction of teacher internal assessment were elaborated and are available with Russian, Azerbaijan and Armenian subtitles.

With assistance of EC, National center for teacher professional development has been executing teacher’s collaboration program eTwinning plus since March, 2013. The program has attracted huge interest since the day of its operation, confirmed by the annual statistics of implemented projects and number of teachers involved in the project.

Unlike previous year, number of teachers registered for the program increased with 250 in 2017. In 2016 program involved 350 tutors and 600 ones in 2017. According to the E-portal of the program, 590 projects were active in 2017 where Georgian teachers are involved. 159 projects out of them are initiated by Georgian teachers in cooperation with Foreign ones, whereas 63 projects are uploaded in Georgian language with participation of local tutors. Unlike previous Number of active projects rose with 28% in 2017. In 2016 number of active projects amounted to 459.

Various activities implemented within the program assisted tutors to procure credit scores. 165 teachers gained credit scores in trainings undergone respective to the program in 2017, whereas 85 tutors gained them in accordance with the projects implemented within the program.

*Indicator*

*1. Improve the results of graduates of general education institutions*

Data of 2016 year (12th class):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Class | Subject | Completed the exam | Could not get a positive assessment | 10 score | Get a positive assignment |
| 2016 | 12 | Biology | 2358 | 782 | 2 | 1576 |
| 2016 | 12 | Geography | 1634 | 301 | 0 | 1333 |
| 2016 | 12 | Foreign Language | 43022 | 6524 | 539 | 36498 |
| 2016 | 12 | History | 41117 | 1923 | 181 | 39194 |
| 2016 | 12 | Mathematics | 42777 | 5910 | 418 | 36867 |
| 2016 | 12 | Physics | 3314 | 1317 | 0 | 1997 |
| 2016 | 12 | Georgian Language and Literature | 41357 | 1146 | 392 | 40211 |
| 2016 | 12 | Chemistry | 4410 | 460 | 33 | 3950 |

Data of 2017 year (12th class):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Class | Subject | Completed the exam | Could not get a positive assessment | 10 score | Get a positive assignment |
| 2017 | 12 | Biology | 2566 | 961 | 4 | 1605 |
| 2017 | 12 | Geography | 1582 | 241 | 0 | 1341 |
| 2017 | 12 | Foreign Language | 42817 | 6486 | 3070 | 36331 |
| 2017 | 12 | History | 39220 | 2003 | 227 | 37217 |
| 2017 | 12 | Mathematics | 42218 | 6323 | 1127 | 35895 |
| 2017 | 12 | Physics | 4864 | 2696 | 0 | 2168 |
| 2017 | 12 | Georgian Language and Literature | 38734 | 1092 | 979 | 37642 |
| 2017 | 12 | Chemistry | 5017 | 898 | 64 | 4119 |

Comparison of data 2016 and 2017 revealed the substantial change in number of undergraduate students, who couldn’t overcome finishing exams were almost the same. To ascertain the causes of circumstance, that number of students holding high scores required optional study.

**Strategic objective: Improvement of educational environment**

**Objective fulfillment report:**

Since 2017 the Ministry has launched allocation of grants to the schools for delivering free classes. Purpose of the program intended to ensure amusing and interesting educational environment and public school strengthening. The program envisaged funding free classes in four directions. Financing covered labor remuneration of a teacher along with remuneration of administration and management including resource fund. Annually no more than GEL 3000 was issued to school.

Extracurricular activities were funded in 1150 public schools, namely: 754 sport projects, 637 – in terms of literacy, 734 – art/culture and 804 schools were funded for intellectual –cognitive direction. Given activities encompassed approximately 45 000 students. Within the funding, schools purchased resources required for extracurricular activities. Except for this, various board games were presented to school.

In 2017, more than 10 000 students from school with fewer students took part in summer camps. The camps were instituted in directions as follows: sport, art, enterprise. Unlike previous year. Principle for students’ selection has changed. Schools with small number of students (200 students) were focused except for the winners in national subject Olympiads and competitions, organized by the Ministry.

Follow up measures were taken in terms of improvement/ arrangement of infrastructure over 2017:

* Rehabilitation/arrangement of 16 sport halls and sport grounds, 4 schools were funded for sport hall arrangement and two ones for sport ground. Ramps were fixed in 6 public schools;
* Medical room was arranged in 140 public schools; 17 ones were equipped with medical stock, s61 schools were furnished and board games were handed to 300 of them.
* Resource officers of 1300 educational establishments ensures public order and security in 457 public schools. Last year 12 schools were provided with resource officers in the regions as follows: Imereti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, and Adjara regions.

In accordance with the introduced changes, one of the task of the service is to support healthy lifestyle:

* Goal of the project is to promote sport activities, rethinking rule for healthy lifestyle and eradication of bad habits. Project was actively involved by the students of special needs. 18,336 sport activities took [lace in 431 public schools within the projects.
* Psychological service of the LEPL office of resource officers of educational institutions provided trainings “violence against child –redirecting procedures if protection is required”. Target team includes resource officers throughout Georgia; the schools there the officers weren’t presented, one of the school representative acted on behalf of them (director/deputy director). Project aimed to retrain resource officers, public schools to prevent child violence, identifying violence cases and proper response.
* Principal topic of the training covered: “Interpretations and forms of child violence”, “Violence and conflict”, Violence outcomes”, “identifying affected child with physical, behavioral and emotional traits”, “Violence at schools”, “Victim of sexual harassment and exploitation”, “principal issues of relations with affected child, “, “multi-disciplinary and multi sectorial cooperation”, “reference procedures of child protection in Georgia”. The project initiated in 2015 and finalized in May, 2017. Totally, every resource officer (1300) and representatives (1576) of public schools were retrained.

Couple of training modules were elaborated at National center for teacher development in order to promote national and general values, to rethink and encompass human rights, to form competence pertaining to sustainable development, to ensure environment for intercultural education and friendly, safe, equal, high cultural, incentivizing circumstance for child:

* “Bulling prevention and tolerant culture support at schools” covers the follow up topics “familiarizing child rights and commitments and child convention”, “tolerance culture development for bulling prevention”, “intercultural cooperation.
* Training module “Europe in my classroom” includes topic “Sustainable development”. Training module “Ensuring safe environment for IDP children integration to the school society” is in progress.
* As for digital technologies, three-tiered training-module is elaborated “Tuition through digital technologies” for teachers of any subject. Module “effective use of books on primary stage” is worked out for teachers of primary stage.
* Training modules, elaborated in nature (1-6 cl) and sport direction encompassed the issues of healthy lifestyle. Given modules consider safety norms as well. Sport tutors (243 attendee) underwent training for qualification rise and exam preparation (24 hr.).
* Within the cooperation of the Ministry of Education, National center of Teachers professional development and State university of Sport, project for teachers of sport and physical education is underway, where training are delivered in accordance with the “training program for sport and physical education teachers” throughout Georgia. Recently, teachers in sport realm from Tbilisi, Mtskheta-Mtianeti and Shida Qartli were retrained.

In 2017, National Centre for education quality enhancement initiated working on new concept of quality enhancement in educational facilities, involving stakeholders. Regarding new concept, educational institutions undertake more commitments on their outcomes through refining mechanisms of internal quality.

Since, the Centre has been working on updated standard of authorization for educational institution, through active participation of stakeholders. Recently, the center has drafted work version of updated standard, which is dispatched to the Ministry of Education and Science. In case of feedback, the Centre will launch its consideration along with stakeholders.

*Indicator:*

1. *Percentage rise in intuition for general education complying modern standards.*

Formulation of indicator enables interpretation and no certain criteria is provided to assess whether or not the school meets the standard. Significant infrastructural projects, developed in 2017, enables us to make reasonable assumption on increase the number of similar establishments. The strategy is preferably to specify the indicator.

**Strategic objective: to increase effectiveness and motivation of tutor and school administration**

**objective fulfillment report:**

Within the plan of teacher professional and career development”, qualitatively new units were developed at schools (teachers assessment team, which provides assessment of activities, executed by each of the teachers, along with the teacher facilitating institute, which intends constant care and progress assessment of teacher professional development. “Brand new assessment system was inculcated, work specifics have changes along with school culture, opportunities for teacher professional development and career advancement have been diversified.

Within the program of 2017, training was provided to ensure teacher professional development and career advancement multilaterally; training was executed, consultation was provided, ancillary documents and legislative instruments were elaborated.

* In 2016, only 41 % of practical teachers had documentations uploaded, elaborated within the plan, whereas in 2017 the number reached – 59%; Assessed documents – 38 % in 2016 and 47% in 2017.
* In 2016 only 20 % of senior teachers had documentations uploaded, elaborated within the plan, the number increased up to 80% in 2017. Assessed documents: 2016 - 20%, 2017 – 70%;
* In 2016 only 27 % of leading teachers had documentations uploaded, elaborated within the plan, the number reached 73 % in 2017. Assessed documents: 2016 -25%, 2017 -63%.
* LEPL Zhvania school implements program of State language tuition for minorities (including tutors and parents of school/preschool students and administration) In 10 regional educational centers and mobile groups under the school (Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda, Tsalka, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Marneuli, Gardabani, Sagarejo, Akhmeta Lagodekhi):
* Within the four level of knowledge of language (A1, A2, B1, B2), 1tuition was conducted in 10 regional centers (67 groups) and 70 villages (171 mobile groups).
* The program is available for any representative of national minorities, though, since the number of participants has significantly increased. The school specified the priorities and foremost, public servants, tutors and caregivers will be given credit from 2017.
* As of the 11 months of 2017, 3139 representatives have enjoyed the language learning program and most part of them are tutors/caregivers and parents of r schools and preschool institutions.
* Regarding existing criteria, 792 attendee including representative of school administration, tutors and caregivers of school/preschool establishments have employed language learning program in 2017, along with 386 parents of students which outnumbers the similar indicator of 2016 with 3%.
* Considering the needs and requirements of attendees, the school elaborated textbook of Georgian language, enriched by terms and vocabulary of six directions, including ancillary textbook for teacher of A2+ level, that covers specific terms required for absorbing and utilization of professional skills in State language.
* To create constant education opportunity, informational educational magazines are noteworthy, including “Techer”, “Mascavlebeli.ge” – E0magazine and scientific reference magazine “Science of education”.

For the purpose of teacher professional development, magazine “Teacher” tailored to the needs are delivered to each resource centers and (69) and schools (2085) (6 numbers and one spec number); two teachers textbooks.

* Through those resources, teachers elaborate resources m plan and conduct classes tailored to the student, write methodical articles, which are published in E-magazine from time to time and collect credits for their career advancement.
* According to the data of E-magazine “Mascavlebeli.ge”, 960 educational resource (article) are published in 2017; as for google analytic data, E- magazine has procured 1, 128, 797 users that outnumbers the data of 2016 by 273, 187; they cover 535, 057 unique users, outnumbering the ones in 2016 by 112 615. Number of subscriptions of articles and viewing amounts to 5, 288, 801, that outnumbers data of previous year by 1 032 626.
* To support scientific-research activity of teachers, scientific referral magazine jes.org.ge was developed in 2017. In accordance with reviewer’s recommendations, the firs scientific conference took place in2017, collection of thesis has been published along with 10 scientific articles.
* To promote teacher profession, competition for Georgian writers held within the program and 10 best stories were selected to reveal “the best story on teachers”. Winners were awarded respectively. Selected stories have been published at magazine “Teacher” and E-magazine “mascavlebeli.ge as well.

LEPL National center for teacher development enacted decentralization subprogram for services of teacher professional development which covers flexible and effective system formation in short term prospects and external service providing system with proper instruments of regulation and quality management, created in the aftermath of collected experience. Grant competitions are announced within the program, which lie on the needs for teacher development and is calculated to specific target groups, defines list of activities to be financed along with forms and requirements of the participants.

Grant competitions are tailored to the types of school and specific clusters offer directions focused on their needs. Respectively, three grant competitions are announced in 4 principal directions:

* “Teachers subject involvement in elaboration the recommendations for teacher professional standard.”
* Effective support of learning-tuition process through tuition and social projects;
* Club and enterprise activities support on the base of schools;
* Teacher professional skills development at schools with small number of students of East and West Georgia.

The competition, which funded and implemented 10 projects by eight organizations. To participate in grant competitions, 154 organizations are registered on E-portal of National center for teacher’s development.

160 hr. contact training courses by leader’s academy, are planned for professional development facilitators and school directors. Leadership academy is split up into three stages:

* Recently, two modules of Leadership academy 1 was prepared and delivered – (40 contact hrs.); directors of 1872 public schools were invited for given modules in August, 2016 ad training was undergone by 1700 public school directors.
* “Leadership academy” covers six modules, which are being delivered since December, 2016. After the very first module, school directors were joined by professional development facilitators, who underwent 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 modules of “Leadership academy 2” (104 hrs. in total).
* The sixth module has already been prepared and are being delivered. “Leadership academy 2” will be completed for May 2018. Preparation and delivering of two modules (40 contact hrs.) are planned for the end of 2018.

National center of teachers’ development meted out reward of teacher along with partner organization. Project of this type has never been implemented till 2017. It worth mentioning, that the center has been marking the world teacher’s day and revealed successful teachers of the program, who has been selected on the basis of their activities. Today, award deme boosted tutor’s participation in the program. In given case, they voluntarily involved in the project. Given campaign lasted for 5 months and covered whole Georgia.

*Indicator:*

1. *Increase a number of teachers moved up to the level of professional development and advancement*

*According to the academic year: September-August*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Moved to the next level and granted the status | 2015-2016 years | 2016-2017 years |
| Mentor |  | 9 |
| Head | 347 | 2155 |
| Lead | 2 | 31 |
| Total | 349 | 2195 |

Comparison of the statistics of 2016-2017 makes apparent of the progress achieved in this direction. Presumably, data of 2018 will be much more desirable.

**Strategic objective: effective management system development on every level of general education**

**Objective fulfillment report:**

In 2016, the Center of Quality Enhancement conducted monitoring in 10 institutions of general education. Two of them were cancelled the authorization and proceedings were suspended towards eight institutions. Monitoring procedure required refinement and planned monitoring were executed by the center as well. Hence, requirement to refine monitoring process was highlighted along with the need of selective criteria formulation.

In 2017, rules and procedures of for planned monitoring were prepared, that bottomed to the monitoring plan of 2017. In accordance with the given plan, the center planned and implemented 10 planned and 6 unscheduled monitoring in 2017, on the basis of submitted applications. In the aftermath of executed monitoring, Authorization council of general education draw five conclusions on authorization annulment.

One of the component of E-school - pilot program of E-magazine inculcation was finalized in 2017. Within inculcation of given program, topical trainings were delivered to Public School teachers in management of E-magazine functionalism. Every tutor of 302 public schools were prepared within pilot program for the end of 2016 9various regions). Hence, pilot program for magazine development covered 359 public schools throughout whole country including November, 2017.

Management trainings were delivered for heads of educational resource centers (69) and directors of public schools. Up mentioned training encompassed general professional skills, preventive issues of gender and violence etc.

*Indicator:*

1. *School monitoring improvement*

Various structural units are responsible for public and private schools.

In 2016, 10 institutions of general education were monitored.

10 planned monitoring were conducted along with 6 unscheduled ones in private institutions of general education.

83 visits were paid to the public schools of Georgia in 2016 and 92 ones in 2017.

Monitoring outcome improvement required more specification. Quantitative indicators don’t cover quality component. Inculcation of E-system is given preference here, that would improve quality component apart from the increase in numbers and would provide possibility for better comparison and analysis.

Most of the task activities are planned for 2018, which would enable us to assess the dynamics of strategic task fulfillment.

* **Vocational education**

**Strategic objective: compliance with the labor market requirements and system internationalization**

**Objective fulfillment report:**

Compliance with labor market requirements and system internationalization are given main priorities on the stage of vocational education. To meet the requirements of labor market and ensure system internalizations, couple of activities were implemented within the reform of vocational education. Respective to EU educational policy, modular educational programs kept to be inculcated. The latter involved active participation of the employers. More than 80 standards and framework documents for more than 50 vocational programs have been revised and processed. More than 40 professional standard and up to 20 framework documents were approved. The processes involved more than 50 companies. Within the grant competition of MCA Georgia program “Vocational education for economic development”, more than 40 programs in compliance with requirement were prepared. Work is on in direction of dual program inculcation. Follow up dual programs were added to the existing ones in 2017: bee-farming, Art of cooking, restaurant and hotel service, that promotes joint implementation of educational programs and student employment. Regulation project is already prepared, which would support mandatory involvement of employers in midterm and qualification exams, conducted within dual programs.

Over the year, Social partners were actively involved in cooperation of National professional council, sector council and supervisory boards of professional educational establishments. Within the National professional council, topical working group of four direction were manned (work-based learning, professional development of teachers for professional development), involving social partners.

To promote internationalization, international concept of vocational education is in progress in support of EUVEG, which ensured trainings for 50 tutors of vocational education on the issue of international mobility. In 2017, with assistance of “Information center on NATO and EU”, 10 tutors paid learning visit to Slovakia in 2017. Except for this, educational trips were provided for the teachers and vocational students as well.

In broad involvement of the stakeholders, National qualification framework was prepared which is in full compatibility with EU qualification framework. Having approved the framework of new qualification, qualifications issued if Georgia and in international space will bear similar meaning. In addition to this, new framework of quality insurance is drafted to promote quality improvement for vocational education and comply with EU quality insurance tools. In the meantime, working version of authorization is prepared for vocational educational institutions.

To implement transparent system for teachers’ professional development and career advancement, last edition of the package for legal documents are in progress. Respective to the needs and changes introduced to the realm, capacity development activities for the teachers of vocational education, have been planned and implemented in follow up four directions: modular teaching of pedagogical course, inclusive vocational education and training in enterprise.

To promote employment or self-employment of graduates, enterprise learning is underway. Enterprise module was updated and teachers for enterprise module were trained; enterprise couch training was delivered as well. Manufacturing innovative labs (Pub labs) are operating in 14 State institution of vocational education in order to support entrepreneurial ideas of the student. Except for this, “Hackathon” and “Buster” of vocational education were arranged under the partnership of Innovation and Technology Agency.

To expend the net of institutions for vocational education and boost geographic availability to vocational education. tangible steps were taken in 2017. Three new branches involved in admission process for Fall (Kazbegi, Tianeti at Lagodekhi municipalities). Within the framework of the agreement concluded between the Ministry of Education ad Science and JSC “M2 Real Estate”, NAPR construction collage “Construct 2” has been formed at Zestaponi municipality rehabilitation works are already underway. Under the partnership with private construction company, State collage operated in Kobuleti expanded its scope and launch execution the programs in c. Batumi learning center, which was fully rehabilitated by private sector. Preparatory works have already launched to form vocational educational establishments in Kaspi and Chokhatauri municipalities.

*Indicator:*

1. *Increase in number of job employment for vocational education graduates.*

Employment indicator for vocational program graduates equals with 56% pursuant to the Tracer Study, implemented in 2016.

Outcome of research on graduates conducted in 2017 will be available earlier in 2018 which will enable to compare, analyze and plan further steps.

1. *Increase number of dual programs*

Piloting of three dual programs in agricultural direction commenced in 2016.

Those three programs were added by another four indirections of tourism and agriculture).

**Strategic Objective: Ensure availability to vocational education on the basis of lifelong learning.**

**Objective fulfillment report:**

One of the priorities for the Ministry of Education is to ensure universal availability to the vocational education. System of vocational education shall meet the needs of school student, minors and adults. Respectively, need of various vulnerable groups like PWD, people with special needs, national minorities, IDPs, socially vulnerable population and adults. The Ministry implemented various services (translators of language of gestures, ancillary employees, specialist of inclusive education), developed adaptive learning material, planned and executed special trainings for tutors etc.

Number of student with special needs, enrolled to vocational programs outnumbered 330 in 2017. Ethical minorities ae being admitted to the institutions on the basis of tests, drafted in Azerbaijan, Armenian and Russian languages, afterwards, they undergo Georgian language module and move to the vocational educational program to obtain further education. In 2017, 38 people were admitted to the vocational programs through the test drafted in foreign language. To ensure IDPs availability to the vocational education, LEPL Livelihood development Agency in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science reimbursed fares for IDP students. In the meantime, grant competition as announced to support entrepreneurial activity of IDPs and 50 projects were funded in the aftermath of reviewing the application.

Short-terms course, tailored to the various target groups were actively undergoing, which involved jobseekers, former prisoners and prisoners.

Except for mentioned above, new draft law is prepared to support vocational education system based on lifelong learning principle. Adoption of this low will create solid ground for execution the lifelong learning concept. The law aims to improve quality and flexibility of vocational education including forming the system for credit accumulation and transfer mechanisms. New law also envisages formalization of adults’ educational issues. New draft law on “vocational education” provides ground for delivering general education that will give the path to Higher education in case of students’ desire. For the purpose of integration of general education component to the vocational education, two program piloting launched in 2017 in support of EU development program, which covers integrated outcomes for secondary stage of general education.

*Indicator*

1. *Increase of indicator to prosecute study after completion of vocational education*

In accordance with Tracer Study, 6% of vocational program graduates have continued their studies in higher educational institutions.

Data of 2017 will become available for January 2018. Undergoing integration of general education component in vocation education will significantly boost the index.

1. *Rise of index for adults’ participation in educational programs*

Various short terms programs of professional development are underway for jobseekers, prisoners and former prisoners. According to the data, 1004 beneficiaries were involved in 2016 and more than 1000 in 2017. Full data will be available for the end of December. Apart from this, statistic is to be produced in terms of age for the future, that would enable us to measure the indicator better.

**Strategic Objective: promotion and boosting the attractiveness of vocational education**

**Objective fulfillment objective:**

To boost popularity and attractiveness of vocational education, working process was conducted in various directions. With assistance of EU project for technical support, new brand and communication strategy was implemented in 2017. In the meantime, festival of vocational education (“Creathon” Hackathon”) were conducted to enhance the image of this realm. Image videos were uploaded on the webpage of the Ministry, open door days were held to ensure informing the future student. In 2017, Georgia joined in “Vocational Education week”, delivering various events for awareness rising. Within the frame of the component of professional orientation, activities to ensure labor/professional skill development for school students were provided in public schools. Within the cooperation of vocational educational institutions and public schools, 200 projects were implemented in 138 public schools. More than 3,000 students involved in courses/classes for labor skill development.

Performance of this object is significantly impacted by vocational education reforms, which envisages new module preparations, involving employers. Program authorization specified admissible quotas of students, for each program. Increased tuition period and specified quotas resulted in shrinking annual free places and number of students, enrolled in 2017; To respond up mentioned challenge, the Ministry keeps supporting inculcation of new, high-quality programs and rises student quotas through vocational establishments development in various municipalities. In 2017, rehabilitation has been finalized on three new locations and preparatory works launched to create opportunities of gaining vocational education in four new municipalities.

*Indicator:*

1. Awareness rising of society pertaining to vocational education

In accordance with the survey of population attitude to vocational education (2015), 72 % of the interviewee note that their attitude towards vocational education is positively changing. New research is desirable to be conducted in this direction.

* **Higher Education**

**Strategic objective:** Further modernization of higher education system, promotion of internationalization and quality enhancement

Object execution report:

In 2017 years they are still working on modification of higher education financing system. The World Bank is involved in this process. A number of meetings were held with foreign experts. There is ongoing process of implementation of changes related to the higher education and science integration in the Law of Georgia about Higher Education.

For the purpose of internationalization of education, LEPL International Education Center according to the competition annually approves and implements various international scholarship programs:

* In 2016-2017 academic years in the Master programs in France, 17 citizens of Georgia had been financed in order to study the master's program to the relevant higher education institution, but 16 financed persons concluded the grant agreement. Totally financing amounted to 273 364,00 GEL; For the 2017-2018 academic years 13 citizens of Georgia were financed in the framework of the same program to study at the Master's Program in France. Financing amounted to 361 086,00 GEL;

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* Within the framework of "Qualification Assurance Program Abroad ", which means training on the qualification assurance program for not less than 3 months, 7 citizens of Georgia were financed in 2016 academic year, total financed amounted to 88 507,00 GEL and in 2017 academic year, 15 citizens of Georgia were financed in the framework of the same program, total financed amounted to 227 614,00 GEL
* In 2016 there was acting International Master and Doctoral program, in the scopes of which for 2016-2017 academic year according to the competition rule were financed 56 citizens of Georgia in order to study on Master and Doctoral program. From them 7 were financed on Doctoral program and 49-on Master program. In recent years financed scholarship students, which are enrolled more than for a year length on different academic programs, based on the high academic progress allocated funding for 2016-2017 academic year. In sum there were financed the current grant holders- 39. Totally financing amounted 4 255 426, 00GEL.
* The financed scholarship students in „2016-2017 International Master’s and Doctoral Program” who are enrolled in the academic program for more than one year, financing was partially transferred in 2017 and cash execution amounted to 935 193,00 GEL;
* In 2017, international Master and Doctoral programs were divided, within the framework of the "International Master’s Program 2017-2018" 61 citizens of Georgia have been financed to study in Master's program abroad. The financed amounted to 2 291 840,00 GEL.
* Within the framework of the "International Doctoral Program 2017-2018" 6 citizens of Georgia have been financed to study in Doctoral program abroad. The financed amounted to 229 620,00 ,00 GEL.
* In 2016, within the framework of the "International Art Academic Program for the 2016-2017 Academic Year" 7 citizens of Georgia have been financed to study in Master’s program abroad. The financed amounted to 147 756,00 GEL and in 2017, within the framework of the "International Art Academic Program for the 2017-2018 Academic Year» 3 citizens of Georgia have been financed; the financed amounted to 207 055,0 GEL
* In 2017 year the current grant holders, based on the appropriate high academic performance, in 2017–2018 academic years will be financed 41 scholarship students who were financed under the various scholarship programs in past years; Who are enrolled in the academic program for more than one year. Financing amounted to 1 065 361,00 GEL.
* On February 6, 2017 was signed 2017-2020 Agreement between Human Resources Ministry of Hungary Government and Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia for support of Hungarian Scholarship program "Stipendium Hungaricum", at the beginning which envisaged financing of 50 Georgian students. On April 21, 2017 in the Agreement there was made amendments and financed Georgian students’ quota raised up to 80. The program realizing partners are: from Hungary- Tempsus Society Fund, and from Georgia- LEPL- International Center of Education. In the scope of "Hungary Scholarship Program 2017-2018" by the Hungary Government were financed 63 Georgian students to continue studying in the high education institutions on Bachelor, Master, integrated five-years Master and Doctoral education programs.
* The agreement concluded on February 6, 2017 also provides the scholarship for 5 Hungarian students (Bachelor, Master and Doctoral) and research personal, in order to participate in summer schools of Georgia. In 2017 for this purpose, 3 Hungarian students were selected and financed; in July, 2017 they passed the following courses in Tbilisi State University; Policy of the South Caucasus countries after the collapse of the Soviet Union; Mythology of Georgia; Ethnography of Georgia.
* In 2017 first was announced the Small Grant Program of postgraduates, which aim is to support financially the center postgraduates, who want jointly with Georgian Authorized High Education Institutions realize researching or other type of projects. On this stage there continues the competition process in order to find the winners. There were financed 4 competitors. The budget performed- 55 839.00GEL.
* In 2016 between the Government of Georgia and the Government of USA was set up the Memorandum about collaboration in the Education field. Based on the mentioned Memorandum from 2018-2019 academic year for 5 years the Government of Georgia the Government of USA will be co-financing of the Fulbright Master Scholarship Program, but LEPL-International Center of Education in Georgian with USA Embassy and International Education Institute provides co-administrating for the Scholarship Program. In 2017 first LEPL International Education Center with its American partners in the scope of the Fulbright Master Scholarship Program conducted selected competition. The scholarship application presenting was possible in all direction of education, but medicine. The winner candidates will be identified in Spring, 2018. The winners will travel to USA in 2018-2019 for studying on Master Programs. Distribution of amounts for students' financing will be done by the "Center" at the end of 2016. For winner candidates financing in selected competition in Spring, 2017 (2017-2018 academic year) there were transferred 525 440.00GEL with the same proportion at the end of 2017it was transferred 536.740.00GEL for 2018-2019 academic year.

In addition, in 2017 year by the Ministry of Education and Science was selected 11 major and 4 reserve candidates for Chinese Government scholarships; Scholarships for China / UNESCO joint scholarship program was selected - 2 candidates; 2 candidates for the Slovenian Government scholarships. 7 candidates for the Arabian Language Scholarship in Egypt, 4 Candidates for Kuwait University Scholarships and 3 candidates within the framework of the Memorandum concluded between the Ministries of Education and Science of Georgia and Armenia. Also, information about more than 20 scholarships in different countries has been reported.

The successful example of internationalization is Sand Diego State University in Georgia. San Diego State University offers internationally accredited Bachelor of Science programs in Georgia in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. This opportunity is made possible through the Georgia’s second MCC compact together with the financial support of the GOG. The degrees are offered in partnership with the three Georgian universities – Tbilisi State University, Ilia State University, and Georgian Technical University. Following programs are offered in the partner universities.

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Chemistry / Biochemistry) Ilia State University (Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Civil Engineering) Georgian Technical University (Civil and Construction Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Chemistry / Biochemistry)

One of the requirements for authorization standards in 2017 approval and updated Higher Educational Institutions is the following standard:

Higher Educational Institutions aspiring internationalization of student contingent. The criteria for standard assessment:

* At the Higher Educational Institutions functioning attracting foreign mechanism of attracting and supporting students
* Higher Educational Institutions implementing activities to integrate foreign students into the local environment and provide them with existing services and other necessary information.

In 2017 one of the requirements for standards authorization approval and updated Higher Educational Institutions are the following:

Higher Educational Institutions employ effective system of supporting research/development and art and creative activities. Criteria for given standard assessment are as follows:

* Higher Educational Institutions supports scientific-research/research/art-creative activities, which aim to elaborate new knowledge, visions, approaches and prospects pertaining to the problem to be surveyed.
* Higher Educational Institutions employs public, transparent and fair procedures for research funding;
* Higher Educational Institutions supports academic and science staff/scientific-research units to procure funding from various sources to conduct research and improve infrastructure and provides consultations in terms of legal issues, funding resource, grant application preparation, their assessment and submitting. Higher Educational Institutions ensures effective administration and provides assistance for submitting the reports;

1. To attract and include new staff in research/art activity. Assessment criteria for given standards include:

* Higher Educational Institutions provides new system of support to involve students of doctorate programs along with post doctorates in research/art-creative activity.

1. Higher Educational Institutions promotes internationalization of research/development and creative activities. Given standard is assessed by the follow up criteria:

* Higher Educational Institutions implements joint research/art-creative projects/activates in cooperation with foreign partners; apart from this, is actively engaged in various international scientific/art-creative activities;
* Higher Educational Institutions promotes joint master and doctorate program implementation along with joint co-leadership of Georgian and foreign professors.

*Indicator:*

1. *Number of foreign accredited programs*

In accordance with the registry data of the center for Quality development, number of foreign accredited programs amounted to 168 ones in 2016 and 182 in 2017. Despite increase of number stipulated by the indicator, significant effort is required to attain internationalization and quality improvement. The program “Study in Georgia” is given credit in this respect, which aims to attract foreign students to Georgia. Outcomes gained shall become more transparent later this year.

1. Number of youngsters involved in tuition and research;

In accordance with the registry data, master students amounted to 15037 and decorates – 3365 for 2018.

It’s a bit hard to provide full measurements for education modernization, internationalization and quality with given indicators. Second indicator is required reviewing as well (moreover, similar indicator operates in the part of science as well). Registry data serves as the best indicator for internationalization and education quality development. According to given indicator, number of foreign students amounted to 6342 for 2016 and 9475 for the year of 2017.

**Strategic objective: to create opportunities for lifelong learning**

**Objective fulfillment report:**

To eradicate so called educational deadlocks, new law is drafted. Inaction of new law will ensure solid ground to execute the concept of lifelong learning. The law aims to improve quality and flexibility of vocational education including forming the system for credit accumulation and transfer mechanisms. New law also envisages formalization of adults’ educational issues, voluntarily involvement of private sector (companies) training centers in the system of formal vocational education. Except for given above, new draft law on “vocational education” provides ground for delivering general education that will give the path to Higher education in case of students’ desire. The mechanisms for vocational education to be acknowledged in Higher education still exists.

In support of UNDP and SDC, National center for quality development of the Ministry of Education and Science, implements project in pilot mode, which intends to populate educational component to the vocational education. In the aftermath of piloting, systemic alterations will be implemented, that would enable the students of vocational collages to continue their studies at Higher educational establishments.

***Indicator****:*

*1. the quantities of the previous education acknowledgment in the Higher Education*

There are no tangible mechanisms to acknowledge vocational education in higher education. Soon after the compatibility of legislation, respective mechanisms of acknowledgement will be provided. Progress of this issues lies on adoption of law on vocational education.

**Strategy Task: raising of quality education availability**

***Objective fulfillment report:***

To support given task, The Ministry of Education and Science implements various programs:

Social program for bachelors:

Social program for funding the student on bachelor programs is underway. First d=stage of funding covers: population residing in high mountainous and eco migration regions, student from occupied territories, children of people, fallen in battlefield, representatives of ethnic minorities, children of people, killed for the territorial integrity, descendants deported from Samtskhe-Javakheti, orphans, PWDs, students residing in the villages nearby frontier, socially vulnerable and students under state care. Program budget amounted to GEL 2 520 000 for 2017. 1362 students of various categories procured funding in 2017;

**Social program for Master Students**

For the purpose of students funding on master’s program, Social program operates.

Within the program, students of various categories are allocated finances on second stage of funding. Program budget amounts to GEL 205 000. 93 students of diverse categories have procured funding for master program.

Funding students residing in the villages adjacent to divisional line

Program to finance affecting student residing in the villages adjacent to divisional line is operating and intends to provide assistant to obtain Higher education. Within the program, the state funded 471 students of given category in 2013-2014, who enrolled in accordance with the rules, stipulated by the legislation and has been attending the educational programs for bachelor, qualified medic/dentist /or master ones. 1179 students were funded in 2016-2017 academic year.

Support of student residing in Abkhazia

New program was initially elaborated in 2015, which stipulates supplementary support for the students residing in Abkhazia. Pursuant to the decree #367, three students have obtained funding who prolonged their studies without universal national exams after acknowledgement of education, obtained in occupied territories. Program budget amounted GEL 20 000 in 2017l, four students were financed.

Special program has been operating since 2010, which offers Georgian language learning program (1+4) and admission takes place on the basis of one exam (general skills in Azerbaijan and Armenian languages). Given funding implicates tuition funding of one-year program of Georgian language and 4-year bachelor program financing; 6 years – for qualified medic and 5 years for dentist program.

In 2016 on the Unified National Examinations, based on the results of tests of general skills drawn up in Azerbaijan and Armenian languages, 960 school-leavers have obtained the right to continue study at the Higher Educational Institutions, including: 660 on the basis of Azerbaijani-language test of general skills and 300 school-leavers based on the Armenian language test on general skills. In 2017, 1046 school-leavers obtained the right to continue study including: 673 on the basis of Azerbaijani-language test of general skills and 373 school-leavers based on the Armenian language test on general skills.

*Indicator:*

1. *Representative of vulnerable groups and Number of students with special education needs in higher education*

In 2016 within the social program, 1382 students from different categories gained the funding (including: 46 persons with disabilities) and 2017 - 1361 students gained the funding (including: 46 persons with disabilities).

In 2016 Master’s grant gained 69 students from different categories (including 11 persons with disabilities) and in 2017 - 93 students gained the funding (including 9 persons with disabilities).

In 2016 were funding 905 affected student residing adjacent to divisional line and in 2017 - 1179 students.

In 2016 were funding 3 students living in Abkhazia, and in 2017 - 4 students.

Despite the existing statistics, it is important to increase efforts to ensure the maximum involvement of all vulnerable groups of society.

1. *Number of students which use different possibilities of funding*

Within the framework of the state educational grants and master grants programs, annual funding will be gain - 32000 student duration of educational program.

The state is fully funded the Bachelor’s priority education programs. About 20000 students will be financed for 4 years.

Since 2016, one-year (60 credit) o program for teacher preparation has been operating, in 2016 - 276 persons were funded in this program, and in 2017 - 473 persons.

It's to be mentioned that the Ministry of Education has been implementing new system of funding for higher educational institutions, which considers given issue as priority.

* **Science**

**Strategic Task: Development of Eco-System of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) of Georgia to achieve a distinguished quality in science and technology.**

**Task completion report:**

Legislative amendments are under process of development in the following fields: Science, technology development, higher education, innovation, grants, Georgian laws, research and innovation board formation and decree approval.

In order to prepare legislative amendments, several meetings were held and reports of research university had received within national and international grants, regarding challenges and problems about LEPL procurement processes that impedes the timely implementation of high-quality researching activities. The report is being accomplished to provide to the relevant ministry regarding university and research center offers and fund vision about increasing quality control and efficiency, referring to possible legislative amendments.

The National Science Fund of Shota Rustaveli has prepared a revised legislative act for further open competition review, regarding financing the scheme for acquiring, updating and developing research equipment for current research projects of research universities and centers.

The possibilities of the research, modernization and small budget acquiring components of scientific-research equipment are available to the competitions administered by the Fund (Applied Research, Fundamental Research, Studies with participation of compatriots working abroad, STCU).

In order to increase and ensure the competitiveness of research and innovation in Georgia, the European Commission Policy Support Facility will be implemented from October 2017 to June 2018. The first Kick-off meeting was held in Brussels in October 2017, and the first mission was provided in December 2017 (4-7). Within the frames of the mission, meetings were held with various target groups, including the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Banks, Innovations and Technologies Development (including GITA), Georgian scientists and another target audience. Three Target Topic had been reviewed: Allocation of specialized priorities for increased financing in science, technology and innovations, and strengthening the connection to the economic strategic development goals of the non-scientific sector (private sector / business, industry, small and medium enterprises, public sector, nongovernmental sector) and scientific research and research performing institutions / groups; The issue of introducing block financing of research universities and integrated research institutes / centers and the formulas of the funding formula for the research activities of the research institutes / centers, the performance and analysis of the relevant data system and the national level. Study of the current situation and analyzing the needs for further expert visits and the final report has already begun.

The additional agreement was signed with the German Center Jülich in 2016 and in 2017, The SMART EDM laboratory began functioning at Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University which was financed by Shota Rustaveli National Science Fund in cooperation with Jülich.

Special grant preparation decree has been completed and published to apply for grant project: as a coordinator for Horizon 2020, work package leader, work leader. Competition will be administered in 2018

Within the project EaP Plus, several contributory measures have been undertaken: 1. Four Georgian scientists have been financed in mediation within the grants for Networking 2. A cluster grant scheme has been announced, which promotes getting on close terms with research and entrepreneurial sector. Webinars had been conducted – webinar about BSH Horizon 2020 on the Legal and Financial Aspects of Program, November 7; Webinar Focusing on research and innovations, December 2017

In 2016, the Ministry of Education and Science requested to European Commission about Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility to increase the competitiveness of Georgia's research and innovation. Using the specific support tool. The consent of the European Commission was accepted in spring 2017. With the intensive work of the Ministry, Rustaveli National Science Fund and the European Commission, three topics were determined. These topics are: support for identifying prospective research fields; Measures to be taken to minimize the distance between research and industry / business and offering of outcome-based financing for researching units.

European Commission will implement Policy Support Facility for Policy Support from October 2017 to June 2018, received recommendations will support the assessment of the science and innovation system and the implementation of European standards reform that will increase the long-term perspective on the level of investment potential in research and innovation in the country and improve the quality of the policy and system. Within the framework of this instrument, the first Kick-off meeting was held in Brussels in October 2017, and the first mission in December 2017 (4-7). Within the frames of the mission, meetings were held with various target groups, including banks, various actors involved in innovation (including GITA), Georgian scientists and other target audience, where the current situation between business and science was discussed with the purpose of developing further expert visits and elaborating final reports.

In the result of Shota Rustaveli Georgian National Science Fund and Volkswagen Fund grant competition results in 2017, German-Georgian joint 4 structured doctoral programs were financed, in which 10 doctoral and at least 1 postdoctoral pupils participate from Georgia. Shota Rustaveli Georgian National Science Fund granted 8 structured PhD programs in 2016, 4 of which were completely new structured program. Second program passed the software certification in 2017 year

On December 1 of this year, Shota Rustaveli National Science Fund together with Georgian universities and public institutions, signed an agreement with LLC "Clarivate". 14 signed Institutions, also the Georgian National Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia will have access to the Web of Science from December 8, 2017 you will have access to the "Web of Science" collection (SciVal Finder, Derwent Analysis), which indexes 16,000 leading scientific journal in all Scientific fields.

The new grant competition decree is being processed, provided and reviewed by scientific society, where the focus is on strengthening of science and private sector cooperation, interdisciplinary, inter-institutional and inter-sectorial research, with the prospect of further commercialization. Representatives of the Georgian Innovations and technology agency (GITA) and the Georgian National Intellectual Property Agency (SAKPATENTI) are actively involved in the evaluation and review process

The concept is performed by international council of the fund (Including the Minister, Deputy Minister, Head of the Prime Minister's Office, the leading research agencies and universities of EU member countries, including former Director of CERN, ERC Former Vice President, Lund University, Director of Stem Cells Center, European University Association Doctorate Teaching Council, Chairman of the Arts Council, member of the Board of Governor of Oxford University).

Preparatory works are underway with scientific community and various departments. to create an international interdisciplinary center of Georgian educational science.

In 2016, the same grant program financed also 86 projects

86 granted projects had been funded by Shota Rustaveli National Science Fund in 2017.

The unified system of grants management has been completed and since 2018 the grants administration will be completely electronic.

To improve the quality of research and technological innovation projects, it is extremely important to improve the research infrastructure. Therefore, for infrastructure rehabilitation in the framework of the Infrastructure Development Program of Independent Research Institutions and Independent Research Institutions 4,196,829.90 GEL was spent in 2017.

In general, the budget for the promotion of scientific research in 2017 has reached approximately 21,662,103.00 GEL. The activities envisaged by the program have had considerable impact on the achievement of the programs, increased number of publications and the involvement of young people in scientific research work.

The project the GN4-2 Research and Education Networking – GÉANT (Proposal number: 731122), financed by "Horizon 2020" program is worth mentioning, which targets functioning of the European Scientific-Educational Computer Network GÉANT, Introduction and development of network services and creation of new services, Within the framework of the project, Georgian Universities (Tbilisi State University, Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi State Medical University and others) are involved in GÉANT's network and the universities of these universities have high speed and reliability with European leading scientific centers.

*Indicator:*

1. *1. The number of internal projects and interdisciplinary joint projects and programs*

The main activities in this direction are planned to begin in 2018. Working on the strengthening of dialogue between interested people have started. The first working meeting with the representatives of various departments will be panned in February 2018.

Strategic task: Strengthening the role, status and cost of science, technology and innovation (STI) in the country and positioning national priorities as strategically important for the country.

**Task completion report:**

In order to promote science and innovation in the country, international Festival of Science and Innovation was held in 2017, September 24 to October 4, up to 60 institutions participated in the festival. More than 250 different scientific and cognitive-entertainment events were presented: Conference, seminar, ELSEVIER's Information Day and Workshop, Annual Lectures of Georgian Scientist at CERN year’s best scientist award ceremony, training, workshop, presentation, scientific-popular experiment, exhibition, performance Scientific-Popular lecture, Open Door Day, Scientific Cafe, Scientific Show, Competition, Quiz, Special Events for School Pupils, etc. The festival featured seven cities of Georgia: Tbilisi, Telavi, Gori, Akhaltsikhe, Kutaisi, Senaki and Batumi. Scientific picnics were mainly held in regional cities, which were mainly aimed for schoolchildren to increase interest in scientific activities. In order to maximize this event, a full-fledged advertising campaign was planned and implemented to promote the STI system

Negotiations and preparatory works are processed for cooperating with the National Geographic magazine for promotion of the best scientific projects.

In 2017 five projects had been financed with four prizes with participation of Shota Rustaveli Georgian National Science Foundation Studies, in a student scholar-inventor contest “Leonardo da Vinci” In 2016 the competition was not conducted with the participation of pupils, whereas 4 prizes had been won in in scholar-inventors competition.

*Indicator:*

1.Number of young researchers

Directions: Engineering and Science / Natural Sciences

2016 Year:

The number of graduate pupils in engineering was 1560; Science / Natural Sciences – 640

Number of Doctoral Studies in Engineering - 478 Science / Natural Sciences - 287

2017 Year:

The number of Master pupils in engineering was 1476, Science / Natural Sciences / Natural Sciences - 670.

The number of doctoral pupils in engineering was 549, in science / natural sciences - 288.

Statistics does not show substantial change over the years, serious research and further concrete actions are needed in order to strengthen the status and value of technology and innovation.

1. *Number of Master and Doctoral Research Projects*

As of 2016, there were 76 PhD pupils and 58 MA pupils

According to the data of 2017, 41 doctorates and 22 pupils are financed

According to the indicators there is not a progress and, in all cases, it is important to activate efforts in this direction.

Though it’s also unclear how to perfectly measure increasement of the value, role and status of STI with mentioned indicators an also its positioning as a strategically important national priority for the country.

**Strategic task: Internationalization of STI system and diversification of funding resources**

**Task completion report:**

17 informational days had been held about Horizon 2020 Participation rules, strategic advice and declared contests. More than 100 individual consultations were carried out in daily mode.

Following events that took part in 2017 are worth mentioning: On17th of December, 2017 the International Conference "Georgia's Associated Status in the Context of Marie Schradolowska-Kiuri Program" was held in which the representatives of the European Commission and the Georgian financed researchers financed by the mentioned program. On April 21, 2017, the International Research Conference "ERC" was organized by the European Studies Council and Shota Rustaveli National Science fund- “Supporting researchers from all over the world” where participated High-ranking officials of the European Studies Council and the representatives of the scientific field of the 6 countries of the Eastern Partnership. On September 27, 2017, ERC Information Day was held. On November 21st, 2017, the Horizon 2020's 2018-2020 work program was carried out, which was attended by representatives of the EaP PLUS Project Consortium - RCISD, Horizon 2020 contacts and coordinator;

On December 13-14, 2017, a Horizon 2020 informational day was held in the direction of energy; On December 20, 2017 an informational day was organized in "European Cooperation of Science and Technology– Other possibilities of attracting financing from the programs COST and Horizon 2020

Georgian scientists are engaged in COST stocks (9) as the European Neighboring Countries. It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Tbilisi and Tbilisi State Medical University held the COST informational days.

As of 2017, with the participation of Georgian representatives within the framework of the Horizon 2020 program, 17 projects have been financed from over 200 proposed projects of the total of 1.8 million euros. European Union financial contribution significantly increased by the Horizon 2020 winner projects.

In the beginning of November 2017, the European Commission presented Horizon 2020 program structural units, including the Program Committees with different configurations, representatives and expert candidates.

On November 20 ,2017, the National Contact Persons (NCP) meeting was held by the fund where the NCP Network Strengthening and Future Cooperation Opportunities were discussed;

On November 21, 2017, the NCP presented a report about 2018-2020 working programs and competitions at Horizon informational day

Horizon 2020 constantly published about EU framework programs, events and webinars, new working programs, contests through Georgian website [www.Horizon2020.ge](http://www.Horizon2020.ge) and at the social network page as well as at Shota Rustaveli National Science |Fund website and social network page.

Searching funding from private sources of innovations still remains 2017, In 2018, it has become the basis for selection of an international conference topic 2017 In October, the Ministry of Education and Science has agreed to host the 2018 International regional event in September about "Strengthening Cooperation between Research and Industry", which will be held within the framework of the European Commission Research and Innovations 4th Eastern Partnership .The event will be fully funded by the European Commission.

In 2017, Shota Rustaveli National Science Fund is organizing a bilateral grant competition with the Science and Technology Center in cooperation with Ukraine, Italy, France and Turkish scientific foundations. The agreement was signed with Clarivate Analytics, which resulted access to scientific databases for 14 institutions

In 2017, payment of membership fees in international programs was planned (CERN, DUBNA) to participate in international research projects of Georgian scientists and to facilitate access to infrastructure and other means. Also, payment of Horizon 2020 annual taxes, which ensures equal access for Georgian scientists to the grants competitions, announced within the framework of the EU Research and Innovation Framework Program.

In December 2017, on the basis of request of the Ministry, The European Commission has returned 50% of the membership fees, paid for the Association Agreement between 2016 and 2017 within Horizon 2020 program. The returned amount is intended for supporting Georgia's participation in the Horizon 2020 program and facilitating the implementation of international scientific researches.

Cooperation between Georgia and InnovFin started in January 2017, between the European Investment Fund and ProCredit Bank of Georgia, for a two-year term, 50 million grant agreement had been signed for InnovFin security loan issuing for Innovative Small and Medium Enterprises within Horizon 2020 , In November 2017, the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund signed a $ 90 million guarantee agreement with TBC Bank whereas first microfinance investment agreement was signed with Credo Bank with 5 million dollar credit line. On the basis of this agreement, Georgian companies will benefit from the EU guarantee loans to increase Georgia's research and innovation potential.

Despite the fact that since 2017, small and medium-sized enterprises have become accessible to the EU's financial instruments, the challenge is to participate in the EU Horizon 2020 program for Georgian small and medium enterprises / companies in both cooperative and individual competitions. In the reporting period, only one small and medium sized company had been submitted a project proposal that has not received funding.

In 2017, 35 scientists had been financed with travel grant by Shota Rustaveli National Science Fund 14 projects were financed in the grant competition (seasonal schools and conference grants) of international scientific events. In 2016, 130 scientists and 23 international events - seasonal schools and scientific conferences were financed in the same competitions.

In 2017, the SMART EDM laboratory began functioning at Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University which was financed by Shota Rustaveli National Science Fund in cooperation with Jülich

* ERC Information Day was held. On November 21st, 2017, the Horizon 2020's 2018-2020 work program was carried out, which was attended by representatives of the EaP PLUS Project Consortium - RCISD, Horizon 2020 contacts and coordinator;

*Indicator:*

*STI financing from international and private sources*

*in 2017, 2 216 920.43 euros had been received in the form of financial contribution from the European Commission within the framework of the Horizon 2020 program (876,312.00 thousand euros were financed from the projects and 1 340 608,43 EUR - from the Association membership fees);*

*In 2017, Contest Participant Georgian organizations were financed by European commission, total to € 876,312.00, which is 2 times higher than in 2016 that was equal to € 424,070.00.*

*In order to promote the innovative potential of small and medium enterprises of Georgia, the Georgian banking sector received 145 million euros from the European Investment Fund and the European Investment Bank for granting preferential loans in 2017. ProCredit Bank received - 50 million Euro TBC Bank - 90 million euros and Credo Bank - 5 million euros.*

*As a result of strengthening STI funding, Shota Rustaveli Georgian National Science Fund has been awarded with 2,614,214 euros in 2017, based on the strengthening of bilateral cooperation with various European foundations (CNRSRNSFG; CNRS PIC-SRNSFG; TUBITAK-SRNSFG; DAAD; Volkswagen), which is significantly higher than in 2016, that amounted to 59,000 euros.*

*It is extremely important and welcoming the growth of funds attracted from international sources in 2017. Which is primarily due to the successful development of Shota Rustaveli Georgian National Science Fund with successful cooperation with Europe's largest educational and scientific foundations such as German DAAD and Volkswagen Funds.*

**Conclusion**

First of all, it should be noted that in 2017 the Government of Georgia approved the unified strategy and action plan for education and science. The unified strategy of education and science is intended for 2017-2021 years. The purpose of the document is to define basic state priorities and long-term goals, in the field of education and science development, within the next five years. Monitoring and assessment of the Education and Science Strategy of Georgia is a key mechanism for determining the measurement and impact of the results of the implementation of the strategy. The logical framework of the strategy, the specific goals and strategic task indicators has been developed

Consequently, in 2017, the monitoring of the Strategy and Action Plan is implemented for the first time. The monitoring report for the implementation of the strategic document is prepared according to the Guidelines for Policy Planning approved by the Government of Georgia. During the monitoring of the Strategy targets and Action Plan, there are several important problems that prevent the full evaluation of strategy implementation. Taking into consideration the fact that the strategy and action plan was approved at the beginning of December, it was a limited time for preparing a monitoring report. Despite of short time, it was possible to collect the most comprehensive information about the quality and fulfillment of the performance of the strategic tasks and activities and take into consideration the difficulties identified and the relevant report had been provided.

The lack of relevant experience in the education and science system had been defined during the monitoring process that had a hindering factor in the process of development of the strategy There was no perfect practice of forming such a format in many departments or structural units of the Ministry, which required additional effort and involvement from the Ministry's Strategic Planning and International Relations Department. At the same time, there was the lack of human resources in monitoring responsible unit of strategy implementation. The Ministry is expected to take care of qualification in this direction. In addition, there is a need for involvement of donor organizations. The Ministry is already conducting consultations with the international organizations regarding this issue.

Despite the above-mentioned circumstances, it should be noted that the Ministry has taken important steps to achieve the goals to all directions (Early Childhood / Preschool Education, General, Professional and Higher Education, Adult Education, Science and Research)

Especially notable progress is in the following areas: Ensuring compliance with educational programs with current and future labor market needs, access to preschool education, improving the quality and accessibility of education to all levels, vocational training and higher education, science, technology and innovation in sustainable economic development of the country. Significant progress is made to fulfill each task of the strategy.

As for the implementation of the Action Plan activities, 148 activities had been performed according to the plan, 59 were partially fulfilled, 42 processes were underway and 6 activities were not implemented. Detailed information on each activity is presented in the report of the action plan activities. In the preparation of interim and final reports during 2018, deeper monitoring will be carried out based on the evidence and it will also consider appropriate recommendations.

**Action plan activity report**

**The total number of the strategy** **action plan statutory fulfillment activities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| fulfilled | 41 activities |
| Partially fulfilled | 59 activities |
| current | 42 activities |
| Not fulfilled | 6 activities |

**action plan statutory activity fulfillment statuses according to the directions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Early and pre-school education** | |
| fulfilled | 6 activities |
| Partially fulfilled | 2 activities |
| current | 1 activities |
| Not fulfilled | 0 activities |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **General Education** | |
| fulfilled | 19 activities |
| Partially fulfilled | 14 activities |
| current | 10 activities |
| Not fulfilled | 0 activities |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocational education** | |
| fulfilled | 7 activities |
| Partially fulfilled | 18 activities |
| current | 2 activities |
| Not fulfilled | 1 activities |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Higher Education** | |
| fulfilled | 4 activities |
| Partially fulfilled | 5 activities |
| current | 11 activities |
| Not fulfilled | 5 activities |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Science** | |
| fulfilled | 5 activities |
| Partially fulfilled | 20 activities |
| current | 18 activities |
| Not fulfilled | 0 activities |

**Action Plan**

|  |
| --- |
| **Preschool Education** |
| **Specific Target: To increase high-quality education for preschool children and providing of preparing works for schoolchildren** |
| **Strategic Target 1: Promoting the development of high quality, inclusive and equitable access for pre-school educational institutions.** |
|  |
| ***Object 1: Developing of standards, programs and resources for child’s holistic development and readiness of school*** |
|  |
| **Activity: 1.1 Promoting school readiness program in kindergartens, school and other alternative school centers** |
| **Expected result: school readiness program monitoring** |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science** |
| **Implementation: School readiness program is presented for kindergartens in Tbilisi and regions. The municipalities are consulted on the implementation of the program. With the help of the United Nations Children's Fund, the program was implemented in 26 nursery schools of Tbilisi and regions. Analysis of results and preparation of recommendations is underway.**  *performed* |
|  |
| **activity: 1.2 Development and implementation of early and pre-school education and scholarship standards** |
| **Expected result: the development of standards and their approval by the Government** |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science** |
| **Implementation:** National standards of early and pre-school education had been approved according to the No 488 resolution stated by the Georgian Government on October 30,2017. The Ministry of Education and Science, with the assistance of UNICEF, elaborated early and pre-school education and standards of scholarship. The documents were approved by the Government of Georgia.  *fulfilled* |
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| ***Task 2: Support and implementation of training / training programs for preschool education personnel*** |
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| **Activity: 2.1 Developing professional standards for educators** |
| **Expected result: the development of standards and their approval by the Government** |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science** |
| **Implementation:** The Ministry of Education and Science, with the assistance of UNICEF, had developed the vocational standard for educators which was approved by the Government of Georgia.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 2.3 Supporting the development of the educator module in the professional education system** |
| **Expected result:** Providing of pre-school educational direction to the National Qualification Framework and Classification of Education |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science** |
| **Implementation:** **MES Decree about approving the framework document for vocational educational programs is ready for approval**  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 2.4 Preparation of qualified personnel for pre-school education** |
| **Expected result:** Development of Certificate Training Module for Methodists / Specialists |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science** |
| **Implementation:** The National Center for Teacher Professional Development, in cooperation with the Department of Pre-School Education Development, has prepared the training module for Methodists and specialists involved in teaching and training process in preschool institutions. Certificate training will be conducted in 2018 and specialists will be trained. Selected trainers will be prepared for further training.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **Activity: 2.5 Developing Training Modules for Certified Methodists and Specialists** |
| **Expected result:** Development of trainers training module |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science** |
| **Implementation:** Training module had been developed - "professional development of educators", 66 contact hours for Methodists / Educators. Focus group was created with specialists for training module perfection. In the process of treatment. The National Center for Teacher Professional Development, in collaboration with the Pre-School Education Development Division, has developed a trainers training module. After the training module confirmation, trainings for trainers will be held in 2018.  *Partially fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 2.7 Supporting the training staff of preschool education institutions in the regions populated by national minorities** |
| **Expected result: Defining of personnel training needs** |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science** |
| **Implementation:** The need for retraining the state language in pre-school educational institutes was revealed in the compact settlements of the national minorities: Ninotsminda, Akhaltsikhe, Marneuli and Telavi (village Karajala) municipalities. In 2017, 46 representatives and educators of preschool education institutions took advantage of the state language learning program.  *Fulfilled* |
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| ***Task 3: Creation and implementation of pre-school education monitoring and evaluation system*** |
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| **activity: 3.1 Development of quality education monitoring and evaluation system in preschool education institutions in compliance with standards.** |
| **Expected result:** Development of monitoring tools for school readiness program |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science** |
| **Implementation:** Education Quality Monitoring and Evaluation System Document had been processed according to the standards Which has been submitted for approval  *Partially fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 3.2 Creation of education quality monitoring and evaluation system in educational institutes according to the standards** |
| **Expected result:** School readiness program evaluation, planning and implementation |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science** |
| **Implementation:** Monitoring of the school readiness was implemented in 26 kindergartens within Tbilisi and regions  Analysis of results and elaboration of recommendations is in process  *current* |

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| **General Education** |
| **Specific Target: Providing access to high-quality general education and educational results relevant to national and international standards for pupils’ future lives** |
| **Strategic Task 1: Providing equal access to high-quality general education.** |
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| ***Task 1: Increasing geographical access to quality education*** |
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| **activity 1.2: Access to native education for pupils living in the occupied territory** |
| **Expected result:** Teachers and administrators living on the occupied territory of Georgia are provided with financial assistance. Teachers are prepared for preparation for the national examinations |
| **Responsible Agency:** LEPL National Assessment and Examination Center, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia |
| **Implementation:** The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia awarded 1077 tutors and administrative-technical personnel of the occupied regions with the financial assistance for First and Second and Third Quarters within the "Financial Assistance Program ". The amount of financial aid is as follows: a) 810 GEL for directors; B) 780 GEL for teachers; C) 522 GEL for technical personnel.  In 2017, the Center personnel had been sent to Zugdidi region for training aim. 46 tutors had been trained for preparing for the Unified National Exams, 49 textbooks and 60 reference books were freely handed over to occupied Gali Municipality public school teachers and enrollees.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 1.5. Ensure access to general education for various vulnerable groups** |
| **Expected result:** Juveniles placed in migration centers, detention facilities, shelter-seekers and juveniles with refugees and humanitarian status, have an opportunity to get the general education; |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science** |
| **Implementation:** In January 2017, 8 listeners were enrolled in sub-program for providing access to the general education to shelter seekers, refugees and juvenile detainees in MIA Migration Department. 17 pupils are enrolled in September. A total of 25 pupils are studying currently. On May 4 and 25, 2017, monitoring was carried out together with the Ministry of Refugees Interagency meeting was held for error correction in the sub-program. On the basis of the test-interview results of June 23, 2017, the program successfully overcame two pupils.  Since January 2017, up to 50 accused / convicted pupils have received general education. 12 accused / convicted pupils participated in the examination. The exams were passed by 10 pupils at different levels of the program.  Six accused / convicts participated in the graduation examinations of the 12th grade in 2017. Three of them successfully passed exams  *Fulfilled* |
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| ***Task 2: Increasing of inclusive education covering and providing of appropriate programs*** |
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| **activity: 2.1 Providing appropriate educational environment for pupils with special educational needs** |
| **Expected result:** Development of teaching methodology for pupils with special educational needs; Providing of an alternative and advanced curriculum; Increasing of qualification in teaching methodology with special educational needs. |
| **Responsible Agency:** National Center for Teacher Professional Development, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia |
| **Implementation:** An integrated class has been created additionally for pupils with autism spectrum, an integrated class model had been processed for pupils with autism spectrum. 8 projects had been financed in 2017 within the sub-program “Second chance to get an education for children remaining beyond the learning process in Georgia" for pupils with limited abilities for learning motivation increasing and providing inclusive culture in public schools. About 80 homeless children are engaged in formal education within the sub-program; Monitoring of inclusive education at the level of general education was completed at the end of 2017. An alternative educational program and relevant Georgian and math programs was created for I-V grades.  1818 teachers and special educators were trained in different directions of inclusive education within 14 training modules in order to increase teachers' qualification in teaching methodology with special educational needs.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 2.2 Providing free textbooks and other educational resources.** |
| **Expected result:** Continuation of free textbook program and extend it with additional resources |
| **Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency |
| **Implementation:** The textbooks were handed out to all beneficiaries determined by the program order. Auxiliary training material printed with braille font and a relief drawing was handed to school for blind children.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 2.3 Measuring the effectiveness of “my first computer program “for different age groups** |
| **Expected result:** Updated Program "My First Computer" |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency** |
| **Implementation:** Within the framework of the program, computers will be handed to all first graders of Georgian public schools, to their tutors and also to successful pupils.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **Activity: 2.4 Multidisciplinary team development** |
| **Expected result:** Multi profile team service has been expanded |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science** |
| **Implementation:** 1959 number of people were evaluated and consulted by multidisciplinary team with the aim of determination of special education needs. Members of the team had been trained for qualification development about using the evaluation instrument, having an opportunity of creating- providing of educational plan.  *current* |
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| **activity: 2.5 Improvement of infrastructure to increase access to special education needs** |
| **Expected result:** All the buildings that are built / fully renovated are provided with appropriate infrastructure. |
| **Responsible Agency: LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency** |
| **Implementation:** Currently, 6 schools have finished ramp arrangement. 6 brand new adaptive school construction had been finished-1. Public school of Tvaladhi village of Kaspi municipality; 2. Kristine Kharshiladze LEPL Public School #1 in the village Korbouli of Sachkhere Municipality (Combined Kapanadzeebi elementary school);3. Murtaz Iremadze Chokhatauri municipality's public school; 4. Shua Amagleba Public School of Chokhatauri Municipality; 5. Public school №61 of the city; 6. Public school of village Romani of Vani municipality; The construction of 9 large contingent (more than 60 children) school and 16 (20 children) small contingent schools is underway. Which will be fully adapted;  *Partially Fulfilled* |
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| ***Task 3: Multilateral development of education models*** |
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| **activity: 3.1 Evaluate the program "second chance of education" and review / expand according to the results.** |
| **Expected result:** The program is updated according to the recommendations received from the monitoring. |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency** |
| **Implementation:** The results of the monitoring will be announced by the end of 2017, where the sub-program will be reviewed  *current* |
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| **activity 3.3 Expanding of Georgian language distance learning for Georgian children living abroad** |
| **Expected result:** The program is expanded, teachers are trained accordingly, the number of involved pupils increases by 50%. |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency** |
| **Implementation:** The following activities were implemented within 2017 sub-program of distance learning:  1.The competition was selected by highly qualified teachers of Georgian language  2.Distance learning training had been conducted for the program involved teachers, which included technical and contextual training of the teaching  4. The workshop was organized for the teachers involved in the project, where the website www.dl.mes.gov.ge was created. Teachers’ Collaborative Portal.  5. According to the data of December 2017, 36 countries, 35 Georgian teachers and 230 pupils living abroad are involved in the program. Over 1000 online lessons have been conducted;  6. The pupils involved in the sub-program are in continuous mode with remote lesson synchronization. Considering the existing experience and subprogram action plan, 2018 is planned to expand the sub-program. Considering the existing experience and subprogram action plan, the sub-program is planned to expand in 2018  *Partially fulfilled* |
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| ***Task 4: Improvement of teaching quality using national and international assessments*** |
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| **activity 4.1: Establishing an effective mechanism for the purpose of reflecting the international assessment results in the decision-making process** |
| **Expected result:** The mechanism is discussed and agreed between the parties. |
| **Responsible Agency:** National Center for Assessment and Examination, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia |
| **Implementation:** 1. In 2016 the PIRLS International Survey was conducted.  2. In 2017, the TIMSS 2015 Mathematical report was prepared; Working on account of natural sciences  3. The PISA 2015 report was prepared in 2017.  4. PISA was piloted in 2017  5.A large-scale national conference was held in 2017 in order to familiarize the State and international assessments to the parties. The conference was attended by school directors, policy planners and education experts.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity 4.2:** Establishing mechanisms for consideration of national assessment results in the development of the training program |
| **Expected result:** The mechanism is discussed and agreed between the parties. |
| **Responsible Agency:** National Center for Assessment and Examination, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia |
| **Implementation:** 1.In 2016, the state assessment was carried out in chemistry, physics, biology and in Georgian as a second language. The preparation of state assessments for chemistry, biology and physics is being processed in 2017  2. Pilot of Mathematical State Assessment was conducted in 2017  3. A large-scale national conference was held in 2017 in order to familiarize the State and international assessments to the parties. The conference was attended by school directors, policy planners and education experts  *Fulfilled* |
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| **Strategic Objective 2: The improvement of education quality with the ability to move to the next step of learning, to development of vital skills in pupils to achieve better academic results** |
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| ***Task 1: Modernization of National Curriculum*** |
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| **Activity: 1.1 Providing of elementary level curriculum** |
| **Expected result:** Introduction of the primary cycle curriculum is being implemented through teacher training, appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. |
| **Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, National Center for Teacher Professional Development |
| **Implementation:** A new elementary curriculum is being processed in the pilot mode at 15 pilot school base, approved by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia on the basis of the Order No. 40 issued on May 18, 2016. In order to support the introduction of the new National Curriculum, various activities were planned and implemented.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 1.2** Upgrading the National Curriculum at Basic Level |
| **Expected result:** An updated and approved curriculum is available. |
| **Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia |
| **Implementation:** The work process of the revision on the basic stages, national curriculum is being completed. The revised basic level curriculum will be approved in the nearest future.  *current* |
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| **activity: 1.3** Development of the concept and the revision of the National Curriculum for possibility of proficiency teaching at secondary level. |
| **Expected result:** A revised approved plan is available. |
| **Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia |
| **Implementation:** After approving of the basic stage, a revision of the secondary level curriculum will start. According to the concept, high level proficiency will be implemented at the middle level.  *Partially Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 1.5** Providing basic entrepreneurial skills in pupils at all levels of general education |
| **Expected result:** Standard, which aims to develop entrepreneurial skills, is provided in labor skills development-oriented programs |
| **Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia |
| **Implementation:** In order to develop entrepreneurial skills in pupils, entrepreneurship issues are integrated into the new subjects of the new cycle new curriculum "Me and the Society”. In the framework of the revised curriculum, the issues related to entrepreneurship in the basic and secondary levels will be presented in the Civic Education Subject Program. In addition, the standard of elective subject "Entrepreneurship Foundation" is designed for the 11th grade. The textbook is made according to the standard.  *Partially fulfilled* |
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| **activity:1.6** Processing of subject-based programs based on alternative curriculum |
| **Expected result:** Subjects programs are based on the alternative curriculum |
| **Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia |
| **Implementation:** By the end of 2017 we will have an alternate program for elementary I-IV grades in Math and for V-VI grades in Georgian Language and Literature for hard / deep intellectual and / or multiple imbalanced (deaf and blind) pupils  *Fulfilled* |
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| ***Task2: Improvement and diversifying of educational resources at all levels of general education*** |
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| **Activity: 2.1 Approval of basic and secondary school textbooks for general education in accordance with the new National Curriculum.** |
| **Expected result:** Primary school textbooks are reviewed with relevant criteria and are approved; Approval procedure of basic and secondary school textbooks for general education is announced. |
| **Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia |
| **Implementation:** Approval rules and other related documents had been confirmed and approval of early stage primary school textbooks / Series had been declared. Approval applications and modeling receiving process had been carried out and accepted. The process of reviewing the textbook / series is being processed.  Approval of the basic and secondary school textbooks depends on confirmation of approval of the relevant stages of national curriculum  *Partially Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 2.4 Development of learning infrastructure - equipping schools with technologies, training laboratories, development of libraries** |
| **Expected result:** Increased number of schools are well equipped with laboratories; Classes in pilot schools are equipped digitally. |
| **Responsible Agency:** LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency, LEPL Educational Management Information System, Ministry of Education and Science, MCC |
| **Implementation:** In 2017, 70 public schools were equipped with medical room inventory and 65 public schools were equipped with school equipment, including library rooms. Also, within the framework of the program "Free Lessons", board games were handed over to 330 public schools located in the villages and settlements of Georgia. In 2017 the N61 public school was opened implemented with modern standards, and in 2017 the first small-controlled public school was opened, which was equipped with various equipment, including library cabinets, Swedish wall etc.  Every public school rehabilitated by the MCC Fund will be equipped with a scientific laboratory and relevant reactivations. In 2017, 30 public schools were equipped with more than 140 types of objects, materials and reagents. The biology, physics and chemistry teachers have developed a methodological guideline for conducting laboratory works. 103 teachers of rehabilitated schools were trained to conduct laboratory works safely. In 2016-2017 all schools of rehabilitation season were equipped with the Natural Sciences Laboratory and also reagents necessary for the study of natural sciences.  17 public schools were equipped with medical room equipment, 61 schools were equipped with school inventory.  Partially fulfilled |
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| **activity: 2.5 Creating educational resources for pupils with special educational needs** |
| **Expected result:** Supportive educational resources created for pupils and teachers with special educational needs |
| **Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia |
| **Implementation:** By the end of 2017,1500 Georgian gestures were inquired; Successfully experienced electronic guide was developed for Inclusive Vocational Education Inclusive educational posters, auxiliary textbooks and guidelines had been printed, 30 portable video magnifications had been purchased for partially sighted pupils.  *Fulfilled* |
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| ***Task3: Improving the quality of teaching and learning*** |
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| **Activity: 3.1 Modernization of Teacher Professional Development Standard with Stakeholder supporting.** |
| **Expected result:** The standard is updated according to modern trends in pedagogy; Teachers' professional standards have been updated with the involvement of subjective associations. The revised standard for teachers' professional development; Vocational training courses are based on a student-oriented methodology. |
| **Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia**,** National Center for Teacher Professional Development |
| **Implementation:** Professional standard of teacher is updated, approved and is being at the process of implementation.  *current* |
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| **activity: 3.2 Development of Human Rights, Equality, Global Citizenship, Media Literacy, Digital Citizenship and Sustainable Development, Basic Entrepreneurial Skills.** |
| **Expected result:** Training and other forms of professional development activities related to human rights, equality, global citizenship, entrepreneurship, media literacy, digital citizenship and sustainable development is being created. |
| **Responsible Agency:** National Center for Teacher Professional Development |
| **Implementation:** The training module "in bullying prevention and promoting a culture of tolerance development" includes the issue of children's rights and responsibilities Introduction to the "Convention on the Rights of the Child". The training was attended by 352 teachers. Trainings are still in process.  The training-module "Europe on my lesson" covers the topic of "sustainable development". 4112 teachers had been registered at the training. The training results are being worked out. The full number of teachers who have undergone training is not checked yet.  Three-stage training-module "Teaching in Information Technology" has been developed in digital technologies for teachers of all subjects. Also, training-module "effective use of netbooks for primary level” has been developed for primary level educators. 7500 teachers took part in both types of training.  *Partially fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 3.3 Professional and career advancement scheme development for teachers to improve the quality of learning in terms of compliance.** |
| **Expected result:** The scheme is revised and approved based on the results of the survey; The assessment team is provided with relevant consultations and trainings, including e-learning. |
| **Responsible Agency:** National Center for Teacher Professional Development, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia |
| **Implementation:** Changes had been included in teachers' development and career progression scheme, regulations had been decreased, the scheme had been established as one resolution;  In accordance with the changes introduced to the scheme, a standardized instrument of teacher evaluation was developed, which is translated and available in Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages; Standard teachers video Instructions had been prepared and is available in Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijanian subtitles;  Trainings have been implemented for trainers and members of the evaluation team  :  - Training of trainers - consultation evaluation team members (4 groups, 130 trainers)  - Training of trainers - subjective observation (3 groups, 56 trainers)  - Planning, managing and accessing pedagogical practice research - (157 groups, 3248 participants)  Introduction of internal assessment instruments (573 groups, 15859 participants)  Introduction to Internal Assessment Instruments (28th 607 participants), Azerbaijani (19th and 477 listeners) and Russian languages (4 groups of 94 pupils)  Introduction of Internal Assessment Instruments and Questions in the Scheme (449 Groups, 13672 Participants)  (29 groups 725 participants), Azerbaijani (14 groups 338 listeners) and Russian languages (4 groups of 106 pupils) in consultation with internal evaluation instruments and questions within the scheme.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 3.4 The development of a partnership between schools.** |
| **Expected result:** Working groups for practice exchange; Partnerships for schools are available and the number of joint projects and activities are increased. |
| **Responsible Agency:**  Schools, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, National Center for Teacher Professional Development |
| **Implementation:** Since 2013 the eTwinning program has been implemented with the cooperation of the European Commission and the Center to facilitate cooperation among schools Within the framework of the program Georgian teachers will be able to cooperate with colleagues both in Georgia and throughout Europe. The program helps them to establish professional communication and to plan educational projects together. According to the 2017 data, 600 teachers are involved in the project from 311 schools. In cooperation with Georgian and European colleagues, 159 (European) and 63 (national) projects had been planned with the cooperation of Georgian teachers. Within the framework of the program, teachers were offered to attend trainings, seminars / conferences at the local level, as well as throughout Europe.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 3.5 Multilateral development of competitions and Olympiads** |
| **Expected result:** Competitions and Olympiads are diversified |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia** |
| **Implementation:** About 100,000 pupils took part in the National educational Olympiads in 2017. The Olympiad was held in three stages in the following subjects: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Georgian Language and Literature, Georgian Language for Non-Georgian Language Institutions, History, Geography, Foreign Languages (English, German, French, Russian); 124 winners had been revealed. In the accordance with the obtained places, pupils were awarded with the diplomas and gift cards of computer equipment and accessories, with the price of 1000, 700, 500 and 50 GEL.  The organization of the informatic tournament which was selected through the competition had provided the contest with its own resources. Triple winners are revealed in different 3 aged groups and 13 winners in the set of ten. In the accordance with the obtained places, pupils will be awarded with the diplomas and gift cards of computer equipment and accessories, with the price of 1000, 700, 500 and 50 GEL.  The teams of the pupils were presented at the International Training Olympiads in the five disciplines - mathematics, informatics, physics, chemistry and biology. One gold, 4 silver and nine bronze medals and one motivational diploma were obtained. It is worth mentioning that Georgian pupils have competed with successful pupils  from more than 100 different countries, which is the result of their high-level training. In accordance with the obtained places, pupils were awarded with 3,000, 2000 and 1000 GEL cash prizes. *Fulfilled* |
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| **Strategic Task 3: Improvement of the Educational Environment** |
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| ***Task1: Providing the infrastructure of education institutions into compliance with modern educational standards*** |
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| **activity: 1.1 Improvement of the infrastructure and sanitation-hygiene norms for the safe and healthy environment.** |
| **Expected result:** The hygiene standards are satisfied in schools that were built and renovated in 2018 |
| **Responsible Agency:**  LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency |
| **Implementation:** In 2017, 31 public schools’ restrooms had been rehabilitated in order to improve the hygienic norms of sanitation, 17 public schools are under construction and 37 public schools have been financed. Also, the construction of 4 large contingent (more than 60 children) and 3 (20 children) small contingent schools construction had been completed in 2017. the construction of 9 large contingent (more than 60 children) and 16 (20 children) small contingent schools is in the process.  *Current* |
|  |
| **activity: 1.2 Arrangement / rehabilitation of closed and open sports grounds for the introduction of healthy lifestyle** |
| **Expected result:** Well-equipped playgrounds / sports facilities are in all built / renovated schools. |
| **Responsible Agency: LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia** |
| **Implementation:** In 2017, 16 sports halls and 4 sports grounds were arranged, financing was given to 4 schools for arranging a sports hall and 2 schools for arranging a sports field.  *Partially Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 1.3 Providing schools with ICT technologies and high-speed internet.** |
| **Expected result:** Providing schools with ICT technologies and high-speed internet. |
| **Responsible Agency: LEPL Educational Management Information System, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia** |
| **Implementation:** During the reporting period, WIFI - centralized management system was installed in 82 public schools and 475 small-contingent  schools were equipped with a WIFI network. As per 2016 condition three schools were equipped with WIFI network.  *Partially Fulfilled* |
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| ***Task2: Creating a safe, healthy, caring and friendly learning environment***  ***adapted to each student's interest.*** |
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| **Activity: 2.1** Ensuring friendly, safe, equal, non-violent, high-powered culture for children |
| **Expected result:** All public-school principles are properly trained; There are relevant trainings for teachers; |
| **Responsible Agency:** LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency, MoES, TPDC |
| **Implementation:** Training module in "preventing bilingual schools and promoting development of tolerant culture" was attended by 352 teachers**.** Trainings are still in process. Training-module is being prepared about “safe learning environment creation in the school for integration of refugees".  *current* |
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| **activity: 2.2** Involving all interested parties (parents, communities, local government) in a safe, discrimination and violence-free school environment |
| **Expected result:** Conditions about participating development in parents and other interested persons (reflected in Regulation documents) are provided; There is a pedagogical program for parents; Resource officers are trained and presented in a number of schools. |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia**, Schools; Resource Centers, Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions |
| **Implementation:** In 2017, resource officers had been presented to public schools of Imereti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and to 12 public schools in Adjara regions, where they had not been presented before. Within the Resource Officer's Project "Violence Against Child Referral Procedures in the Case of Child Protection", 1576 representatives of all resource officers (1300) and public schools (deputy director / director) of the educational institution had been trained.  *Partially Fulfilled* |
|  |
| **activity: 2.3** Creating the conditions for healthy lifestyle (including sports activities, medical services, improving sanitation and hygiene norms, ensuring safe and healthy food). |
| **Expected result:** Special programs for promoting healthy lifestyle are enhanced; 1000 teachers of sports are trained; |
| **Responsible Agency:** LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, National Center for Teacher Professional Development |
| **Implementation:** 1. Implementation: 1. Medical rooms were arranged in 140 public schools, sanitary facilities in 92 schools, 16 school gyms and 4 playgrounds;  In 431 public schools, where the Office of resource officers is provided with the support of resource officers 18336 sporting activity had been processed  2. 2. Physical education, sports teachers’ education development and exam preparation training are obtained (243 listeners, 24 hours)  In the framework of "Physical Education and Sport Teacher Training Program of General Education Institution", training of teachers from Tbilisi, Mtskheta-Mtianeti and Shida Kartli regions is in process.  *current* |
|  |
| **activity: 2.5 Promoting of intercultural education in schools, development of culture of diversity and tolerance.** |
| **Expected result:** Diversity and tolerance issues are reflected in the-relevant training-modules for development of intercultural competences; Principles of guideline are provided |
| **Responsible Agency: National Center for Teacher Professional Development, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia** |
| **Implementation:** Training-module "preventing bullying in schools and facilitating and development of tolerant culture". "Development of Tolerance Culture for Bullying prevention" and "Relations Between Cultures". The training was attended by 352 teachers. Trainings are in progress  *Current* |
|  |
| **activity: 2.6 Arranging of Multilevel development / creation of all postgraduate programs and extracurricular activities for all students** |
| **Expected result:** Development the number of school summer camps with different extracurricular programs, arts classes, eco clubs and other. |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia**, **schools** |
| **Implementation:** A Training-Module "Creating of safe Environment in the school for Integration of Refugee Pupils" is being processed Extracurricular activities were financed in 1150 public schools. Specifically: 754 projects in sports, 637 in literacy, 734 in art / culture, 804 in intellectual and cognitive directions. About 45,000 pupils were involved in these activities. Funded schools within the funding received the necessary resources for the implementation of extracurricular activities. In addition, there were different kinds of board games in 330 schools Funded schools made a procurement of the necessary resources for the implementation of extracurricular activities. In addition, different kinds of board games had been presented in 330 schools.  In 2017, more than 10000 pupils of small-scale public schools of Georgia participated in summer camps. Camps were organized in different directions: sport, art, science, entrepreneurship.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 2.7** School administration is trained in sustainable goal development promoting |
| **Expected result:** The school administration training module is designed; Schools carry out cultural activities and measure activities according to the green calendar of sustainable development |
| **Responsible Agency: National Center for Teacher Professional Development** |
| **Implementation:** The training module "Europe on my lesson" contains the topic "Sustainable Development". Sustainable development issues are planned in different subject standards, journalism, conference themes and leadership academies.  *current* |
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| **Strategic Task4: Development of motivation and effectiveness in school administration and teachers** |
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| ***Task1: Attracting of new staff in alternative ways*** |
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| **activity 1.2 Improvement of teacher training program quality through modern manuals, resources and professional staff.** |
| **Expected result:** Programs are updated, new syllabuses are created that reflect the requirements of the teacher's professional standards, modern literature is created; Partnership with advanced teacher education programs is provided. |
| **Responsible Agency:** Higher Educational Institutions, National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement, Donor Organizations |
| **Implementation:** In order to develop a 300-level integrated program of teacher training, a sectoral council is set up, which includes teachers training programs, education experts and employers. On the basis of sectoral characteristics, HEIs will develop 300 credit programs for teacher training.  *Partially Fulfilled* |
|  |
| **activity: 1.3 Increasing the prestige of the profession through teachers' competitions, awarding ceremonies and media campaigns.** |
| **Expected result:** In the media stories, attention will be paid to the positive sides of the teacher's profession, which shows teachers as a positive change agent; At least one contest is for teachers who distinguish best teachers and receive awards at the state level. |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, National Center for Teacher Professional Development** |
| **Implementation:** 1. In order to popularize teacher' s profession in 2017, National Teacher prize was established with a partner organization.10 semi-finalists and 5 finalists were selected at the contest. On October 5, on the World Teachers' Day, On the 5th of October, the World Teachers Day the award ceremony was held and the prize-winning teacher was revealed. A five-month campaign was actively covered by TV channels and 7 publications was prepared.  2. In the online edition of the center mastsavlebeli.ge, 58 articles were written to popularize the teacher's profession.  3. In the context of various programs and schemes of the Center, 16 stories and 5 online publications have been prepared to demonstrate teacher’s profession, in the context of various programs and schemes of the Center, 16 stories and 5 online publications have been prepared.  4. The Literary Competition "The best story about the teacher" was initiated by the Center's magazine, the author of the 10 best stories has been revealed, including three prize winner writers.  5. The blog "Teacher's diaries " were activated on which the letters of the participants of the program "Teach Georgia" are being published.  *Fulfilled* |
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| ***Task2: Creation of environmental opportunities and motivation development for teachers.*** |
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| **activity: 2.1 Resources are available for teachers' professional development** |
| **Expected result:** Printed and online resources are available for teachers; In the online newspaper "mastsavlebeli.ge" the number of downloads has increased by 10 |
| **Responsible Agency: National Center for Teacher Professional Development**, **Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia** |
| **Implementation:** In 2017, as well as in 2016, a planned 6th issue of the magazine "Teacher" and one special number was published. The magazine was awarded to all schools of Georgia (2085 schools) and educational resource center (69 resource center). The magazine consumers are the all teachers of Georgian schools.  In 2017 as well as in 2016, 2 teachers’ library books- "Literature Teaching" and "Psychology of Teaching." were published and distributed to all schools and resource centers of Georgia "Teacher's Book", Books were distributed to all schools of Georgia (2085 schools) and Educational Resource Centers (69 Resource center). The books' consumers are the all teachers of Georgian schools.  According to the Google Analytics data, an online newspaper Mastsavlebeli.ge had a total of 128 128 users in 2017, which is more than with 273 187 users compared to 2016, with 535 057 unique users in 2017 that is more than 112 615 users compared to 2016, Also, the number of article downloads and views in 2017 are 5 288 801, which is1 032 626 more than in 2016.  In 2017, the first scientific conference was held, collection of conference theses was published and 10 scientific articles were issued. Program resources and authors are awarded with international prizes:  In 2017, for publishing about disabled people problems, by European Union. In 2016, as the best media partner by USAID and women’s informational fund  Within the framework of the program, competition for Georgian writers has been published for two years already. The best story for the teacher is aimed at promoting teachers' professions and displaying their activities. In the year 2016, a special jury has selected 10 best stories, in 2017 - also 10 best stories. In the two competitive periods, winning authors were awarded. Selected stories were printed in the magazine "Teacher“ and published on the website "mastsavlebeli.ge".  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 2.2** Professional development and career advancement scheme offers vast opportunities in professional development, including e-learning. |
| **Expected result:** Professional development and career advancement scheme is enhanced; Professional development opportunities exist; Training-modules are designed for teachers; Teachers' involvement in professional development is increased by 10% |
| **Responsible Agency: National Center for Teacher Professional Development** |
| **Implementation:** Detailed Action Plan for the promotion of professional development and introduction of career advancement schemes for initiating teacher activities were prepared. Informational meetings were held with educational resource centers (2 groups: Western and Eastern Georgia) Representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science with non-Georgian language teachers (26 groups, 722 listeners)  Training modules have been prepared and training of trainers and teachers had been performed. Training of Trainers - The importance of effective and effective learning resources created by teachers in teaching and learning process (3 groups 70 trainers)  - The importance of effective and effective learning resources created by the teacher in teaching and learning process (23 groups, 506 participants)  -lesson observation (441 groups, 11248 participants);  - Planning of the modeling lesson (17 groups, 355 participants)  -Modern approach of teaching and evaluation (11 group 264 participants)  -52 external observers and 62 facilitators had been trained for the pilot mode lesson observation process. Teachers' involvement in professional development has increased by 23%.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 2.**3 Continuation of promoting of professional development decentralization |
| **Expected result** Small Grant Competition is announced for these organizations; Registration of trained organizations is in the process. |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, National Center for Teacher Professional Development** |
| **Implementation:** In 2017, three grant competitions has been announced in four different directions, 10 projects has been implemented in 8 different regions of Georgia. The 154 organizations are registered on the electronic portal of LEPL Teacher Professional Development Center.  *Fulfilled* |
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| **activity: 2.4** Teachers of national minority schools, school administration, and parental support to study the state language. |
| **Expected result:** Expected result: State language courses are available for teachers, directors and also for parents |
| **Responsible Agency: Z. Zhvania School of Public Administration** |
| **Implementation:** LEPL **-** Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration implements the state language learning program for national minority representatives (Including for school administration, teachers and pupils' parents) in 10 Regional Training Centers (Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda, Tsalka, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Marneuli, Gardabani, Sagarejo, Akhmeta, Lagodekhi) and in mobile groups. In 2017, 3139 beneficiaries, including 746 teachers and 386 pupils, have benefited from the state language learning program. The school has created for Georgia language A2 + level manual textbook for teachers, which enables them to provide specific terms within the scope of the level and help them to master the professional skills of the state language.  *Fulfilled* |
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| ***Task3: Providing of principle attracting, selection, preservation and professional development mechanisms*** |
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| **activity: 3.**1 Ensuring professional development opportunities for principles to become effective managers and instructional leaders, including e-learning**.** |
| **Expected result:** There are professional development mechanisms and programs, including e-learning |
| **Responsible Agency: National Center for Teacher Professional Development** |
| **Implementation:** For the development of public schools’ directors, 160 contact hours of Leadership academy training courses were established. Leadership Academy is divided into three stages. Currently three modules of leadership are prepared and conducted 1 (40 in total), 1,2,3,4, 5 and 6 modules of the Academy of Engineering (80 contact hours). Up to date, the Academy of Sciences 1 and 2 have 9 modules (120 hours in total). Preparing and conducting of Leadership Academy three modules of 2 will be planned in 2018.  C*urrent* |
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| **Strategic Task 5: Development of effective management system at all levels of general education** |
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| ***Task3. Creation of School Authorization Mechanism and Internal Quality Management System*** |
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| **activity: 3.2 Integration / enlargement of electronic management system in school management.** |
| **Expected result:** Electronic management system is used in pilot schools' management. Electronic magazines are introduced in schools |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia,** LEPL Educational Management Information System |
| **Implementation:** During the reporting period, one of the main components of school management information system (eSchool) pilot program for school electronic magazine was completed. Within the framework of the program implementation, thematic trainings were conducted with public schools’ teachers about managing functionality of the magazines. By the end of 2016 all the teachers of 302 public schools (different regions) were trained in the pilot program, and in 2017 trainings were added to more than 740 teachers (57 regions). Thus, throughout the country, including November, 2017 the pilot program for the introduction of magazines covered a total of 359 public schools.  *Partially Fulfilled* |
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| **activity 3.4** Development of internal security system |
| **Expected result:** Quality Assurance Indicators are defined and differentiated for small contingent, minority, medium, large contingent, leading schools. |
| **Responsible Agency**: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement |
| **Implementation:** The quality management concept of general education institutions envisages the creation of quantitative and qualitative indicators of school assessment using differential approach to different types of schools. Under the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science, a working group was created in 2017, which started working on small contingent, minority, medium, large contingent, and differentiated quality indicators for leading schools. In 2018 the quality assurance indicators for different types of schools are determined. The pilot of the new quality management model will be implemented using differentiated indicators.  *Partially Fulfilled* |
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| ***Task4: Reviewing the educational resource center model and supporting the staff in their effectiveness.*** |
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| **activity: 4.2 Provision of adequate support for professional development of resource center staff are provided.** |
| **Expected result:** Consultations are conducted for resource center staff members, trainings are underway; Resource center staff participate in trainings that are conducted for assessment groups and participants of the Academy of Leadership. |
| **Responsible Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, National Center for Teacher Professional Development** |
| **Implementation:** From 2017, the Head of Educational Resource Centers were invited to attend the School of Leadership Training Courses with the School Principals and the Faculty of Professional Development of the School. They will go through 4 of -2 modules and 2 of 3 Modules of Leadership from 2018.  *Partially Fulfilled* |

**Vocational Education and Preparation**

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| **Specific reason: increasing the number of vocational students, ensuring their competitiveness with the help of vocational and general skills to support the country’s socio-economic development** |
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| **Strategic task 1: relevance of vocational education with the demands of labor market and internationalization of the system** |
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| **Activity 1.1 the development of tools of effective participation of social partners and Civil Society in working out vocational development policy** |
| **The expected result:** Established in working out vocational education policy, effective tools of social partners’ inclusion. |
| **The Department Responsible**: The Ministry of education and science of Georgia |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2017 the social partners were actively engaged in working of boards of the national vocational society, field boards, supervisory boards of vocational-educational institutions. In 2017 four meetings of the national vocational board were held. The members of the board are field ministries, employers’ association, trade unions and civil society representatives. It should be mentioned that for more inclusion in the process of implementation policy of civil society’s vocational education from 2015 non-government organizations representatives are determined as members of national vocational board. Within the national vocational board there have been thematic groups set up with four directions (thematic working groups of work-based teaching, professional development of vocational education teachers, inclusive education and quality development), in working of those social partners are also actively participating. In 2017 the board discussed such important documents as the new bill draft of vocational education, the working version of the joint strategy (2017-20210) of education and science, the project of recognition rules of non-formal education, the working version of new authorization standards.  Field boards were actively engaged in processes of professional qualifications development during the whole year. With the aim of field boards’ capacity improvement the field boards’ conception has been worked out by MCA. According to the conception looking through the boards’ role and functions is taken into account. The conception has been looked through and the further steps have been planned. |
| Carried out |
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| **Task 2. Working out and setting up professional qualifications existing in Georgia, relevance with European educational system, mechanisms of recognition and mobility.** |
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| **Activity 2.1 referencing national qualifications framework to that of European qualifications.** |
| **The expected result**: compatibility of NQF with EQF is ensured. |
| **The department Responsible**: The Ministry of Education and Science; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment**: National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement has begun to cooperate with ETF with the aim of further development of national qualifications framework. Two working meetings were held. Their aim was to discuss the project of national qualifications framework made by the center with foreign experts and to ensure the compatibility and relevance of national qualifications framework (NQF) with that of European qualifications (EQF) after the ratification of the project. The representatives of higher and vocational educational institutions, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of health, Labor and Social Affairs of Georgia and Georgian Chamber of commerce and Industry, Education experts and donors participated in working meetings.  The working plan for 2017-2018 national qualification framework (NQF) with the aim of comparability with EQF has been worked out with ETF in accordance with ten reference criteria, the right planning and implementation of reference process.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 2.2 the formation of professional qualifications on the basis of sharing international experience** |
| **The expected result**: the qualifications are being formed on the basis of internationally approved methodology |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment**: Professional standards, vocational educational programs framework and modules methodology have been renewed on the basis of analyzing international attitudes and existing methodology. Relevant guides have been prepared and they are put on the center’s web-site. |
| New projects are being worked out on the basis of renewed methodology. 48 analysis documents, 88 frameworks and 54 professional qualifications have been worked out with the renewed methodology and rule. With the aim of the formation of professional qualifications in the analyze document there is the content of professional qualifications existing on the international level.  Fulfilled. |
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| **Activity 2.3 working out and implementing joint and exchange programs with the cooperation of foreign educational institutions.** |
| **The expected result**: Joint and exchange programs have been implemented. |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement |
| Fulfillment: within the Georgian-Estonian project “Sharing of the best Estonian experience to support competitiveness in Georgian vocational educational sector” within the partnership with the city of Valga professional college “Valgama” students of logistics of vocational college “Akhali Talga” (New Wave) are being taught in Estonia. Three professional students studied in 2016-2017. Three professional students are still studying. Also, in 2017 one teacher of cookery program of college “akhali Talga (New wave) and three professional students were in Estonia on two-week trainee period.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Task 3**: **Development** of **professional qualifications relevant with the demands of Rome fair.** |
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| **Activity 3.1. the formation of professional qualifications on the basis of professional standards worked out by employers.** |
| **the expected result**: professional qualifications are formed in accordance with employers’ demands |
| **the department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment**: the results of studying professional program framework and each module are based on the professional standard/standards set up by the employer. The employer’s demands are fully reflected in 54 professional qualifications set up and developed in 2017. |
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| Fulfilled |
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| **Activity** **3.2. The employers’ engagement in the processes of working out and carrying out vocational educational programs and qualification granting.** |
| **The expected result**: employers participate in the processes of working out, implementing and assessing the professional program. |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement; educational institutions |
| **Fulfillment**: since 2016 educational programs have been implemented by dual attitude in the sphere of agriculture: vine-growing and wine-making, stock-breeding and fruit-growing which means employers’ active engagement in the process of program implementation (more than 50% of study results are gained in the real working surroundings.) In the autumn reception of 2017 four dual programs were added to the existing three dual ones in tourism and agriculture (apiculture, art of cooking, hotel services and catering). The regulatory project ensuring employers’ mandatory engagement in qualification and intermediate examinations within dual programs has been prepared.  Current |
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| **Activity 3.3. Setting up and developing professional qualifications electronic system/register and ensuring availability** |
| **Expected result**: qualifications el. System/register is set up and available for all persons concerned. |
| **The Department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment**: National Qualifications El. Register will be possible to create after defining relevant rule and procedures and which needs legislative basis. In November of the current year with the help of experts engagement the amendment of acts about educational quality enhancement, general education, vocational education and higher education was worked out by which it was defined that regulations of working out, administration and development of El. Register of qualifications will be approved by the Minister’s order. In 2018 the relevant Web Site will be prepared and qualifications existing on national level will be reflected in Register in 2019.  Not fulfilled |
| **Task 4. Developing and setting up effective mechanisms of quality enhancement;** |
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| **Activity 4.1 renewal of the existing quality enhancement framework and setting up new mechanisms (authorization: institutional and programmed; internal and external verification; monitoring; self-assessment)** |
| **Expected result**: new mechanisms of quality enhancement are set up. |
| **The Department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment**: **The project of renewed standards of authorization of vocational education institutions is prepared. The project was reviewed with various interesting groups, including: Legal and Public Law, Vocational Education Institutions, Experts on Supporting Modular Programs, Authorization of Vocational Education Institutions and Programs Accreditation Experts Corps, Vocational Education Initiative Members of the Authorization Authority and members of the Quality Management Thematic Working Group in Vocational Education.** About up to 170 people have participated in the discussion in all. The conception of internal and external verification has been prepared. During the year of 2017 monitoring became active. 18 planned and unplanned monitoring was carried out. (in 2016 13 planned and unplanned monitoring was carried out in vocational educational institutions).  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 4.2 developing institutional capacities on the basis of renewed quality insurance framework** |
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| **Expected result**: sides engaged in quality assurance process participate in activities to strengthen capacities. |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment**: To ensure quality detailed recommendations have been prepared with regard to authorization standards. Authorization guide was prepared and became publicly available. During the year of 2017 the cycle of 5 working meetings /seminars was held on the issues of quality assurance, (20 days in all during the whole year) in which up to 380 representatives of 105 institutions carrying out vocational educational programs have taken part. Also, during the year 375 people took part in various trainings and working meetings.  Fulfilled |
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| **Task 5: assistance of non-stop professional development of vocational education teachers and attracting new personnel** |
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| **Activity: 5.1implemanting the new model of the preparation of vocational education teachers, joining the profession and non-stop professional development** |
| **Expected result**: **the new model of the preparation of vocational education teachers, joining the profession and non-stop professional development has been implemented** |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; the national Centre of teachers’ professional education, LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** to create the transparent system for teachers’ entering the profession, development and career promotion the final version of legal documents packet is being worked on. Also, because of the teachers’ needs the training has been held in four main directions: pedagogical course; modular teaching; inclusive professional education; teachers’ training in the enterprise.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Task 6. Implementing entrepreneurial education and work-based/dual teaching to assist graduates in employment and self-employment** |
| **Expected result:** work-based/dual programs are being implemented in chosen spheres. |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement, LEPL; educational institutions |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2016 vocational educational programs began to be implemented in 3 enterprises according to dual attitude in the following spheres: vine-growing and wine making, stock-breeding and fruit-growing (7 programs). In 2017 by means of authorization four educational institutions were granted the permission to implement dual programs in the following spheres: apiculture, art of cooking, hotel services and catering (7 programs in all). At present 14 vocational educational programs are being implemented in 7 educational institutions with dual attitude; Besides, preliminaries are actively being done in the direction of working out dual programs which are planned to implement for 2018  Fulfilled |
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| **Activity 6.2 assisting** entrepreneurial **education and innovative teaching (innovative laboratories, simulation teaching and others)** |
| **Expected result**: methods of innovative teaching are implemented; entrepreneurial education is encouraged. |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; educational institutions |
| **Fulfillment:** teaching entrepreneurial module is compulsory for all modularvocational educationalprograms. entrepreneurial module has been renewed, teachers of entrepreneurial module have been trained and entrepreneurial trainers have also been trained. Industrial innovative laboratories (Publabs) function in 14 public vocational educational institutions which helps students to implement entrepreneurial ideas. With the partnership with innovation and technology agencies “hackathon” and “booster” of vocational education have been held.  From April of 2017 the methodology of reversed classroom is being implemented within a little grant program in colleges “Black Sea” and “Erqvani”, “MCA – to Georgia”. The project is being carried on for 9 months and 5 teachers of various subjects are engaged in it. For 2017-2018 school year teachers are teaching their subjects according to the methodology of “reversed “classroom. The reversed classroom is a strategy of interactive teaching by means of interactive film advertisements.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Strategic task 2: strategic task: ensuring life-long learning-based vocational education availability** |
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| **Task 1: connecting vocational education with other educational stages and eliminate educational flaws** |
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| **Activity 1.1, assisting the integration of general education components in vocational education on the renewed legal basis** |
| **Expected result**: the general education component is integrated in relevant vocational educational programs |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement, LEPL; educational institutions |
| **Fulfillment:** the preliminaries were completed in July of 2017 and piloting of the two programs in which the results of intermediate level of general education are integrated started. In particular, within the development program of the United nations organization and the joint project of National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement the modules of general education intermediate level (communication in the Georgian language, mathematic literacy, citizenship, entrepreneurship, science and technologies) were integrated in vocational educational programs of “fruit-growing” and “stock-breeding”. Three educational institutions: public college “Aisi”, public college of Ilia Tsinamdzgvrishvili and Zugdidi educational university of Shota Meskhia. The intermediate piloting account was prepared;  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 1.2: recognition of credits gained in vocational education within the first level of academic education on the renewed legal basis** |
| **Expected result**: on the academic education level recognition of credits gained in vocational education is carried out. |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement, LEPL; educational institutions |
| **Fulfillment**: the new bill draft about vocational education is carried out aiming to improve flexibility of the vocational educational system, among them setting up credit collecting and transfer mechanism. After creating legal basis, the recognition of credits gained in vocational education (within associated rate) will be possible in the educational programs on the first level of academic education.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 1.3 working out engagement mechanisms in vocational education for those remaining beyond education** |
| **Expected result:** **engagement mechanisms in vocational education for those remaining beyond education have been created** |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement, LEPL; |
| **Fulfillment:** the methodology for prevocational preparation was prepared for those to be engaged in vocational educational system and the methodology piloting was carried out. The tasks of the methodology are assisting to work out skills necessary for people’s professional orientation, for work and independent life. The methodology reflects the principles and ways to build that service which aims to prepare people with different necessities for choosing and mastering profession, and for independent life.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Task 2. Creating relevant, flexible educational programs, models and services for various target groups’ necessities, among them for grown-ups’.** |
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| **Activity 2.1 creating/implementing the model for teaching grown-ups in vocational education.** |
| **Expected result**: **the model for teaching grown-ups in vocational education has been created** |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement, LEPL; |
| **Fulfillment:** the new bill draft about vocational education is created foreseeing formalization of issues for grown-ups’ education in vocational education. After coming into operation, work will begin in vocational education with the aim of creating teaching model for grown-ups.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 2.2 implementing educational programs focused on various target groups’ necessities (children with disabilities, refugees, socially unprotected and others) and creating/developing additional services: access to educational resources, special teachers, student hostels.** |
| **Expected result:** vocational education is available for all target groups |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; educational institutions. |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2017 the transition model from general education to vocational educational level for students with disabilities was created and piloting was carried out in Tbilisi public school No 2 and the region public school No 1. To support teaching process for the blind and the star blind, for students with dyslexia and other disorders enrolled on vocational educational programs audio versions of 26 books were created. In 2017, 335 students with disabilities were enrolled in state vocational educational institution. For assistance to teach students with disabilities vocational educational institutions get additional financing and they are supported by specialists of inclusive education. Also, for students with disabilities enrolled on vocational educational programs services and educational resources fitting their necessities are created. |
| The livelihood agency, LEPL, financed refugee vocational students enrolled in state vocational educational institutions in 2016-2017 with carrying costs, also to support the refugees’ entrepreneurial business the competition for grants was declared, after discussing applications 50 projects were financed.  The construction and equipment of students’ hostel of public college “Iberia” LEPL, is completed. Also, projecting of students’ hostel of vocational college “Lakada” LEPL, has begun.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Task 3. Creating and developing effective mechanisms of recognition of formal and non-formal education** |
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| **Activity 3.1 recognition possibility of received competences in formal education for purposes of another program on the renewed legal basis** |
| **Expected result**: on the basis of the elaborated rule, recognition of received results is carried out within formal education. |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement, LEPL; educational institutions. |
| **Fulfillment:** the new bill draft about vocational education was worked out and it aims to improve the flexibility of vocational educational system, among them setting up credit collecting and transfer mechanism; during the year of 2017 the center recognized the vocational education received abroad with the aim of carrying on studying in Georgia on the vocational educational program, though there was not much applying (only three applicants applied to the center with alike demand). |
| Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 3.2 implementing the methodology of non-formal education recognition, service and monitoring on the renewed legal basis** |
| **Expected result:** the system of non-formal education recognition is created |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; National Centre for Educational quality Enhancement, LEPL; educational institutions. |
| **Fulfillment:** to recognize non-formal education the methodology relevant to existing practice on the international level has been worked out. The project of non-formal education recognition rule was prepared in view of piloting results  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Task 4. Creating diversified financing mechanisms** |
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| **Activity 4.1 creating and implementing result-oriented, flexible financing model** |
| **Expected result:** the new model of financing is created |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia |
| **Fulfillment:** with the support of the project of MCA “vocational education for economic development” the existing model of the analysis of vocational education financing is being carried on. After the analysis of the existing model it will be possible to begin working in the direction of creating alternative models of vocational education financing.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 4.2: finding additional financing sources for vocational education** |
| **Expected result: vocational education financing sources are diversified.** |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia |
| **Fulfillment:** preliminaries are being carried out see 4.1.  Current |
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| **Task 5: creating the joint, accessible to public, flexible net of vocational educational institutions (state and private)** |
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| **Activity 5.1 improving geographic coverage of vocational educational institutions** |
| **Expected result:** the number of providers of vocational education is increased |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia |
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| **Fulfillment:** in 2017 the preliminaries were actively being carried out with the aim of developing 4 new locations - Kazbegi Municipality, Stepantsminda Settlement (studying base of Tsinamdzgvriantkari College), Tianeti Municipality, Tianeti Settlement (studying base of Tsinamdzgvriantkari College), Khobi Municipality the village of Nojikhevi (the studying base of public college “Pazisi”, LEPL) and Lagodekhi Municipality the Village of Shroma (the studying base of pubic college “Aisi”, LEPL). Three new locations were included in the autumn reception of 2017(Kazbegi, Tianeti, Lagodekhi)  Within the contract between the ministry of Education and science and Joint-stock company “M2 real estate” in Zestaponi Municipality was founded construction college “Construct 2”. Rehabilitative works have already started.  With the partnership with a private construction company the state college existing in the town of Kobuleti extended its area and began to implement the programs in the studying center existing in the Town of Batumi the rehabilitation of which was fully provided by the private sector.  The preliminaries have started in Kaspi and Chokhatauri Municipalities with the aim of implementing vocational educational institutions.  Fulfilled |
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| **Activity 5.2 cooperating with foreign educational institutions, studying visits, sharing the best international practice with the aim of teachers’ professional development** |
| **Expected result: teachers are engaged in the process of sharing the international practice.** |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia; national center for teacher professional development |
| **Fulfillment:** with the help of “informational center about NATO and European Union”, LEPL 10 teachers of vocational educational institutions went to Slovakia on a studying visit. The teachers learned about existing novelties in the direction of service, production, logistics, agriculture and construction. Also, they met teachers of Slovakian vocational educational institutions and they shared the information about teaching methodology with Georgian teachers. Also, with the support of European Union technical assistance project 50 teachers of vocational education were trained on the issues of international mobility.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 5.3 implementing effective mechanisms to run educational institutions with the aim of ensuring studying process fitting students’ necessities** |
| **Expected result:** ruling alternative mechanisms have been implemented |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia. LEPL; educational institutions |
| **Fulfillment:** with the help of donors the activities of capacity development of management and administration representatives of vocational educational institutions were carried out. Within the European Union technical support project on-the job training was held in two cycles for managers of professional orientation and career planning in East and West Georgia. Also, the informational meeting with college directors was held on the issues of professional orientation and career planning. Within the European Union technical support project, the training “in ruling project cycles” for directors of public vocational educational institutions was carried out. 30 directors were engaged in the training.  Within the Georgian project of MCA “vocational education for economic development” the seminar on the issue “The career education in the vocational education system – the partnership between educational institutions and business sector” was held. Directors of vocational educational institutions and managers of professional orientation and career planning attended the seminar.  Within MCA project “The vocational education for economic development” the seminar on the issue “the recognition of non-formal education in the sphere of vocational education” was also held. The seminar was attended by directors of vocational educational institutions engaged in the process of non-formal education recognition. The seminar included the process of non-formal and informal education recognition, methodology and tools.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Strategic task 3: popularization of vocational education and increasing its attractiveness.** |
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| **Task 1. Developing professional orientation and career planning service** |
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| **Activity: 1.1 working out and implementing the joint model of professional orientation and career planning** |
| **Expected result:** the improved service of professional orientation and career planning is available |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia. LEPL; educational institutions |
| **Fulfillment:** there is manager for professional orientation and career planning in all vocational educational institutions. With the support of MCA managers’ profile for professional orientation and career planning and job description were worked out according to which the relevance of existing staff with standards will be determined.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 1.2 stimulating implementation of vocational education components in schools.** |
| **Expected result:** school students are engaged in activities developing labor skills |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia. LEPL; educational institutions |
| **Fulfillment:** within “subprogram of developing labor skills in school students” the competition was declared in August-September of 2017 to implement the developing courses of labor skills in students. Within the cooperation between vocational educational institutions and public schools presented competition applications were discussed by the commission made by the minister of education and science. According the commission’s decision 200 projects in all have been approved which are being carried out in 138 schools. More than 3000 students are engaged in labor skills developing lessons/courses.  Fulfilled |
| **Task 2. Creating the new brand of vocational education and implementing communication strategy** |
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| **Activity 2.1 carrying out informational campaign in regard to the new communication strategy** |
| **Expected result:** the society’s awareness of vocational education has been increased |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia. LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** with the support of European Union’s technical assistance project in 2017 the new brand and communication strategy of vocational education was created. The strategy was agreed to the sides concerned and the necessary activities for strategy implementation were planned.  Partly implemented |
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| **Activity 2.2 strengthening various target groups’ (on all levels of the system) capacity in using communication techniques with the aim of the popularization of vocational education** |
| **Expected result:** the popularization of the new brand of vocational education is being carried out by using effective communication techniques. |
| **The department responsible**: The Ministry of education and Science of Georgia. LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** to strengthen the image of vocational education in 2017 the festival of vocational education, exhibitions (in Pankisi and Poti), hakathon and creathon were held. Image videos were put on the ministry web site. Days of open door were held in vocational institutions to inform future students. In 2017 Georgia joined in “The vocational education European weekly”. Within the weekly activities were held for increasing the awareness in different directions.  Partly fulfilled |

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| **Higher education** |
| **Specific purpose: internationalization of higher education and ensuring access to quality higher education to improve individual’s personal and vocational development and employment** |
| **Strategic task 1. Further modernization of higher educational system, assisting internationalization and increasing quality** |
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| **Task 1: improving studying and teaching quality in the higher educational system** |
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| **Activity 1.3 creating and diversifying professional development programs for academic/pedagogical staff (e.g. international mobility, preparation and further training)** |
| **Expected result:** academic/pedagogical staff ‘s engagement has started in professional development programs |
| **The department responsible:** the ministry of education and science of Georgia LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** the implementation is planned in 2018  Not fulfilled |
| **Activity: 1.5 contacting graduates from education international center with higher educational institutions after returning to the home-country, among them in definite fields** |
| **Expected result:** graduates engagement in teaching process has started |
| **The department responsible:** the ministry of education and science of Georgia LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** on October 6, 2017 with the help of the activity “Employment Forum” carried out by the International Education Centre 8 graduates out of 27 participants have been employed. Other graduates are in the process of negotiating with the universities.  Current |
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| **Activity: 1.7 to improve the infrastructure and necessity-oriented financing system to improve the infrastructure of the higher educational institutions (among them adapted infrastructure)** |
| **Expected result:** assessment results of academic programs and renewed programs |
| **The department responsible:** higher educational institutions |
| **Fulfillment:** within the program of developing higher educational institutions’ infrastructure the decision was taken to finance rehabilitation works of buildings in several universities. Work is being carried out to modify higher education financing system. The world Bank is engaged in the mentioned process. There have been meeting s held with foreign experts.  Current |
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| **Activity:** 1.9 to develop relevant infrastructure for students with disabilities |
| **Expected result:** adapted infrastructure in higher educational institutions |
| **The department responsible:** higher educational institutions, the ministry of education and science of Georgia LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** within the program of developing the infrastructure in higher educational institutions financing was assigned to rehabilitate block 5 of Sukhumi University regarding to provide adapted surroundings for students with disabilities.  Current |
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| **Activity: 1.12 assessing and renewing existing academic programs engaging relevant sides concerned on the inside level of higher educational institutions.** |
| **Expected result:** academic programs assessment results and renewed programs |
| **The department responsible:** higher educational institutions |
| **Fulfillment:** higher educational institutions are getting ready for authorization and accreditation with renewed standards. Part of the mentioned process is program assessment and modification  Not fulfilled |
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| **Activity 1.13 implementing the quality assessment system of result-based programs according to international practice and European standards and guiding principles** |
| **Expected result:** up to 250 accredited programs in regard to European standards and guiding principles in 2015 |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science, National Centre for education Quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2017 the project of renewed standards of higher educational programs accreditation was worked out. The worked out document is based on and interchangeable with international practice and guiding principles.  Not fulfilled |
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| **Task 2: the integration of scientific researches and teaching** |
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| **Activity: 2.3 using resources of higher educational institutions’ scientific entities in teaching and studying** |
| **Expected result:** integrated research components in studying programs |
| **The department responsible: higher educational institutions;** the Ministry of Education and Science |
| **Fulfillment:** carried out changes are being implemented in the Georgian Law about the higher education with the aim of integration of higher education and science  Current |
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| **Activity 2.5 creating additional financing sources through grant programs to prepare young researchers** |
| **Expected result:** the increased number of financed doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science; Shota Rustaveli National science foundation |
| **Fulfillment:** **Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation held competitions of young scientists’ researching grants, grant financing of the doctorate’s educational programs, master’s researches.**  **Current** |
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| **Activity 2.7 supporting doctorates to publish researches in the reviewed journals** |
| **Expected result:** worked out and approved standards of doctorate programs assessment |
| **The department responsible:** higher educational institutions;the Ministry of Education and Science |
| **Fulfillment:** Doctorate’s educational programs grants financed by Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation foresee publishing scientific works in the reviewed journals  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 2.8 competitive grants’ system to improve the infrastructure of higher educational institutions (laboratories, instruments, etc.)** |
| **Expected result:** improved infrastructure |
| **The department responsible:** higher educational institutions;the Ministry of Education and Science |
| **Fulfillment:** higher education financing system is being modified. The world bank is engaged in the mentioned process. There have been meetings held with foreign experts  Current |
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| **Task 3: internationalization of Georgian Higher educational system** |
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| **Activity 3.3 implementing schemes of financing students’ and academic personnel’s mobility** |
| **Expected result:** implemented mobility programs for academic personnel and students  The increased number of academic personnel and students participating in mobility programs |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2016 the number of participants up to 300, in 2017 – up to 450; in 2017 for the Chinese Government’s scholarships 11 primary candidates and 4 reserve candidates were chosen; scholarships for Chinese / UNESCO joint scholarship program 2 candidates; for scholarships of Slovenian Governrnent2 candidates; for scholarships of Egyptian Arabian language 7 candidates, for scholarships of Kuwait University - 4 candidates, within the memorandum between Georgian and Armenian ministries of Education and Science 3 candidates. Besides, the information spread about more than 20 scholarship competitions of various countries.  Fulfilled |
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| **Activity: 3.4 developing legal basis to support joint programs’ implementation with partner higher educational institutions** |
| **Expected result:** worked out legislative base |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science |
| **Fulfillment:** carried out changes are being implemented in the Georgian Law about the higher education with the aim of operating joint educational programs  Current |
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| **Task 4: creating effective and overwhelming financing system** |
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| **Activity 4.1 identifying effective and overwhelming financing model by using local social and economic factors by cooperating with international partners/experts** |
| **Expected result:** a new higher education financing model has been worked out |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science |
| **Fulfillment:** higher education financing system is being modified. The world bank is engaged in the mentioned process. There have been meetings held with foreign experts  Current |
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| **Task 5:** creating **result-based and development-oriented quality ensuring system** |
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| **Activity 5.1 piloting a new authorization model** |
| **Expected result:** a new authorization model has been piloted |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science; National Centre for education Quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment:** with the aim of piloting new authorization standards and procedures memoranda of mutual cooperation were made official between – Ilya State University LEPL, Georgia national University SEU LTD, and - Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University LEPL. In the mentioned institutions the new authorization model has been piloted by local and international experts participating. Also, students and employers first took part on the visits.  Also, with the aim of piloting new authorization procedures and standards, in Tbilisi State Medical University with international experts formative assessment was used. A special councilor chosen for the center by WFME took part in the mentioned assessment working out relevant recommendations with the aim of making existing in Georgia quality ensuring system relevant to the demands made by the world federation.  Fulfilled |
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| **Activity 5.2: working out effective relevant procedures ensuring quality external assessment mechanisms results to be foreseen by higher educational institutions** |
| **Expected result:** relevant procedures have been worked out |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science; National Centre for education Quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment:** changes have been done in “The Regulation of educational institutions authorization” made by the Minister of education and science by the October 1, 2010 order №99/ნ. According to the carried-out changes higher education authorization standards and procedures have been changed.  Also, relevant changes have been done in “The regulation of educational institutions educational programs accreditation’’ made by the Minister of education and science by the May 4, 2011 order №65/ნ according to which educational institutions accreditation procedures were looked through and renewed.  The above-mentioned changes were based on European higher education quality assurance standards and guiding principles (ESG – 2015). The carried-out changes in the regulations of authorization and accreditation qualitatively change quality assurance mechanisms becoming education quality development-oriented and allows to assess the gained results.  Fulfilled |
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| **Activity 5.3 engagement of international experts, students and employers in the process of authorization** |
| **Expected result:** students and employers are engaged in the process of authorization |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science; National Centre for education Quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment:** according to the carried out changes on August 22, 2017, in the October 1, 2010 order №99/ნ made by the Minister of education and science in “the Regulation of educational institutions authorization”, in case of the status seeker of the higher educational institution while forming experts’ group recommendations worked out within Bolonia process are taken into account. Among them, the demands about higher education European space quality assurance standards and guiding principles (ESG).  According to the carried out changes, the panel of experts consists of expert commission members – other educational institutions’ administrative/academic personnel and students, an international expert, also the panel of experts may consist of employers and other people having relevant qualification. Accordingly, an international expert’s and student’s participation in each authorization group has become obligatory, also sometimes – the employer’s participation.  Besides, with the aim of piloting new authorization standards and procedures – in Ilia State University LEPL, in Georgian National University SEU LEPL, in Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University LEPL and in Tbilisi State Medical University LEPL authorization international experts, students and employers took part in the formative assessment.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 5.4: working out, approving and implementing new accreditation standards and procedures** |
| **Expected result:** new accreditation standards have been worked out, approved and implemented |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science; National Centre for education Quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment:** on August 22, 2017 changes were done, in the May 4, 2011 order №65/ნ made by the Minister of education and science in “the Regulation of educational institutions’ educational programs accreditation” according to which educational programs accreditation procedures were looked through and renewed. According to the changes, new relevant procedures were added to the old ones ensuring educational programmers high-quality and deep assessment.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 5.5 working out effective relevant procedures which ensure the results of quality external assessment mechanisms to be foreseen by higher educational institutions.** |
| **Expected result:** students and the employer are engaged in the process of the accreditation |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science; National Centre for education Quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment:** the project of the higher educational programs accreditation renewed standards was worked out. According to the worked-out document, accreditation standards assessment criteria and indicators were defined. The document was sent to all the higher institutions to be discussed and also to international and local experts in the sphere of education. The worked-out document was in detail discussed on the conference held in September, 2017 attended by local and international experts of education, the personnel of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, representatives of higher educational institutions.  At present, the project of accreditation standards is being corrected after completing of which it will be sent to the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia to be approved.    Current |
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| **Activity 5.6 international experts’, students’ and the employer’s engagement in the process of accreditation** |
| **Expected result:** students and the employer are engaged in the process of accreditation |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science; National Centre for education Quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment:** According to the worked out changes on August 22, 2017, in the May 4, 2011 order №65/ნ made by the Minister of education and science in “the Regulation of educational institutions’ educational programs accreditation” in case of the higher educational program accreditation , the panel of experts consists of members of experts’ commission – other higher educational institutions administrative / academic/scientific/invited personnel and student, also the panel may consist of international experts, employers, in case of educational program subject to regulation – also representatives of relevant regulatory organ or/and professional association and others having the relevant qualification. Accordingly, students took part in all groups’ work planned after the mentioned changes. As for the employer’s engagement, their engagement was also ensured in most of the cases.  Besides, within the project – “the higher education quality development and internationalization” with the aim of the higher educational program quality development, the center planned and implemented international experts’, students’ and employers’ participation in assessment of 21 English-language programs presented to the center for accreditation.  Also, within the project, formative assessment of 10 educational programs which were subject to regulation was done. With this aim, memoranda of mutual cooperation were made official with Tbilisi Ivane Javakhishvili State University LEPL, Akaki Tsereteli State University LEPL, Gori State University LEPL, Caucasian University LTD and New-Vision University. Along with local expert’s international experts also took part in the assessment of educational programs which were subject to regulation and by taking their recommendations into account not only the contents of the programs and resources, but also field indicators of law and medicine will be looked through.  Fulfilled |
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| **Activity 5.7 assisting higher educational institutions in working out self-assessment and internal quality assurance mechanisms** |
| **Expected result: internal quality assurance mechanisms are renewed in higher educational institutions** |
| **The department responsible:** The **Ministry of Education and Science; National Centre for education Quality Enhancement** |
| **Fulfillment:** According to the worked out changes on August 22, 2017, in the October 1, 2010 order №99/ნ made by the Minister of education and science in “the Regulation of educational institutions’ authorization” those willing to gain the status of a higher educational institution are allowed to apply to the center in writing not less than 3 months earlier before presenting authorization application with the request of making a preparatory visit for authorization process. The preparatory visit carries a consultative character and refers to: a) planning and implementing self-assessment process; b) planning and implementing authorization visit; c) to interpreting authorization standards and procedures.  Besides, with the aim of assisting to work out self-assessment and internal quality assurance mechanisms, interpreting authorization and accreditation standards and procedures, the center has defined consultation days for higher educational institutions and all others concerned, which are actively used by higher educational institutions and their staff.  In addition, local experts retrained by the international expert actively work to prepare guide-books and training modules relevant to new authorization standards. At present trainings are planned to be held on library resources and on working out the institution’s strategic plan.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 5.9 making application for WFME recognition** |
| **Expected result:** the application for WFME has been made |
| **The department responsible: National Centre for education Quality Enhancement** |
| **Fulfillment:** with the aim of piloting new authorization procedures and standards, the formative assessment was implemented in Tbilisi State Medical University LEPL with international experts participating. The special adviser chosen for the center by WFME took part in the assessment and worked out relevant recommendations to make quality assurance system existing in Georgia relevant to the defined demands made by the World Federation. On the basis of the mentioned recommendations, concrete activities were implemented, in particular the project of legislative changes to be included in the Georgian Law “the project of education quality development” and was sent to the Ministry of education and science of Georgia. Also, on the basis of the recommendation in the regulation of authorization for higher educational institutions there is an opportunity to apply to the center before sending the authorization application about the authorization visit  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 5.10 making up working groups, working out and approving field indicators** |
| **Expected result:** field indicators of specialties subject to regulation have been renewed/worked out |
| **The department responsible:** National Centre for education Quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment**: in the current year field councils of higher education were created in the field of transport by the director of the National Centre for quality Enhancement LEPL (Order N345-24/05/2017); in the field of medicine (order N411- 10/07/2017); in the field of education (order N655- 13/10/2017); in the field of law (order N774- 06/12/2017) and in the field of veterinary science (order N776- 06/12/2017) with the aim of working out field indicators of higher education for higher educational programs of the professions subject to regulations. With the decision of field councils of medicine, education and veterinary science, working groups were made and work started on the projects of field indicators. For the current stage, three field indicators of sea transport have already been approved; the field indicator of medicine was discussed and recommended to be approved on the council. The completed project of teacher preparing field indicator is under the public consideration. The work is being carried out on the projects of higher education field indicators in the fields of veterinary science and law which will reportedly be finished till the end of the year.  Current |
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| **Activity 5.11 preparing national qualification framework for self-certification** |
| **Expected result:** the national qualification framework has been prepared for self-certification. |
| **The department responsible:** National Centre for education Quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2018 educational qualifications framework will be approved. From 2018 preparation for the process of national qualifications reference and collecting the necessary documentations will start.  Current |
| **Activity 5.12: checking the national qualification framework by an exterior assessor** |
| **Expected result:** the national qualification framework has been checked by an exterior assessor |
| **The department responsible:** National Centre for education Quality Enhancement |
| **Fulfillment: before the beginning of the process of reference, at the end of 2018 prepared documentation and the implementation process of qualification framework will be assessed by a foreign expert.**  Not fulfilled |
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| **Strategic task 3: increasing access to quality education** |
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| **Task 1: ensuring inclusive quality higher education** |
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| **Activity 1.1 working out adapted resources for special-needs students by cooperating with higher educational institutions** |
| **Expected result:** resources have been worked out for special-needs students |
| **The department responsible:** The **Ministry of Education and Science; higher educational institutions** |
| **Fulfillment:** till the end of 2017 finding necessities will be implemented to form supportive services for students with disabilities and special-needs students in the higher educational institution and recommendations will be worked out.  Not fulfilled |

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| **Science** |
| **Specific purpose: modernization and internationalization of scientific, technological and innovation systems to make up a new knowledge and to ensure the country’s sustainable development** |
| **Strategic task: 1**  **Developing Georgian scientific, technological and innovation eco-systems (STI) to gain the high-quality in science and technologies** |
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| **Task 1: perfecting legislative base to rule Georgian scientific, technological and innovation systems (STI) to expand attracting international investments in the sector of the rights of intellectual property, technology transfer, and science, technologies and innovations (STI)** |
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| **Activity 1.1: initiating changes in the Georgian Law about science, technologies and their development** |
| **Expected result:** the change in the field of STI with regard to investment implementation has been discussed by relevant sides concerned (ministries, LEPL-s and research universities) and submitted to the parliament to be approved |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL. |
| **Fulfillment: legislative changes about science, technologies and their development are under consideration**  **Current** |
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| **Activity 1.2: initiating changes about higher education in the Georgian Law.** |
| **Expected result:** the change with regard to investment implementation has been discussed by relevant sides concerned (ministries, LEPL-s and research universities) and submitted to the parliament to be approved |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** legislative changes about higher education are under consideration  Current |
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| **Activity 1.3: initiating changes about innovations in the Georgian Law** |
| **Expected result:** the change with regard to assisting IPR and technologies transfer (University-industry cooperation) has been discussed with the relevant sides concerned (ministries, LEPL-s and research universities) and submitted to the parliament to be approved |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** legislative changes about innovations and about creating innovations commission and about approving its regulation in the Georgian Law are under consideration.  Current |
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| **Activity 1.4: initiating changes about grants in the Georgian Law** |
| **Expected result:** the change in the field of STI, higher education, with regard to government purchases, with regard to the assistance in mutual cooperation between university and industry has been discussed with relevant sides concerned (ministries, LEPL-s and research universities) and submitted to the parliament to be approved |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** legislativechanges in the Georgian Law about grants are under consideration; the round table and working meetings were held and accounts from research universities were received within the range of national and international scientific-research grants, what problems and challenges exist resulting procedures of LEPL purchases which prevent from implementing high-quality research activities at the right time. The relevant account is being prepared to be submitted to the government, what kind of offers there are from universities and research centers, and what the vision of the fund is like about possible implementing legislative changes to increase control and efficiency.  Current |
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| **Activity 1.5: initiating changes about creating research and innovations commission and about approving its regulation in the government resolution.** |
| **Expected result:** changes in the government resolution about making research and innovation commission and about its regulation being approved are discussed and renewed with the aim of effective functioning of research and innovation commission and with the aim of strengthening its role in the development of STI policy. Several legislative acts concerning innovations and researches, technologies transfer, government purchases, other questions connected with STI are approved. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL; National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement LEPL; The Ministry of Economics and Sustainable Development of Georgia, The Ministry of Finances of Georgia, the Agency of Innovations and Technologies of Georgia – GITA. |
| **Fulfillment:** the changes aboutmaking innovations commission and about approving its regulation in the government resolution are under consideration  Current |
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| **Task 2: modernization and renewal of scientific, technological and innovation (STI) infrastructure and research opportunities in Georgian research universities, in research institutes integrated with them and independent research centers.** |
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| **Activity 2.1. assigning special financing by the Ministry of Education and Science to develop infrastructure** |
| **Expected result:** renewed infrastructure and research plans and projects have been received by the Ministry of Education and Science. The relevant assessment has been worked out, infrastructure and the research base of research universities and centers are gradually being improved. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL. |
| **Fulfillment:** within the program of the development of the infrastructure of scientific-research institutions connected with higher educational institutions and independent scientific institutions the expense of the works done for their rehabilitation amounted to4,196,829.90 GEL.  Partly fulfilled |
| **Activity 2.2. assigning grants by Shota Rustaveli Georgian National Science Foundation by means of the open contest for current research projects to purchase research equipment, for renewal and development.** |
| **Expected result:** the renewed legislative act connected with the financing scheme of research universities and centers are ready (2017) to develop research equipment and programs. The contest is integrated with the current research projects and the best project applications are financed |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** the renewed legislative act connected with the financing scheme of the purchase, renewal and development of research equipment for current research projects of research universities and centers has been prepared byShota Rustaveli Georgian National Science Foundation to be discussedby means of the open contest.  current |
|  |
| **Activity 2.3. assisting to organize a wide-scale intermediary activity in the field of technologies and innovations in Georgia** |
| **Expected result:** administering a special grant contest for research organizations and assigning grants to organize international events (conferences, season schools, symposia). Up to 20 events were financed |
| In all the fields defined by Eurostat classifier.  Holding special intermediary events on the topic of priority fields/thematic topics (especially in connection with horizon 2020). |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL, research universities. |
| **Fulfillment:** the regulation of grant contest is under preparation.  International scientific conferences organized by Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts:  The international conference – “Georgia – Byzantium – Christian East” was open in the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia supported by the Ministry of Education and Science and organized by K. Kekelidze Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts.  From October 23 through October 27 the 6th international theological conference dedicated to St. Maximus the Confessor was held organized by St. Maximus the Confessor’s International Theological Scientific Centre. One of the supporters of the conference is the National Centre of Manuscripts. On October 24 the third session of the 4th international theological conference dedicated to St. Maximus the Confessor was held in K. Kekelidze National Centre of Manuscripts.  Presentations:  The special program designated for wives of heads of diplomatic representations was held in the ministry of foreign affairs for the fifth time in the range of the meeting of the heads of Georgian diplomatic representations abroad and consular offices - Ambassadorial 2017”. On July 20 the head of the exhibition and education departments of the national center of manuscripts made a presentation about the collections of the national center of manuscripts especially for the wives of the heads of diplomatic representations.  Exhibitions:  On March 28 the exhibition – “Manuscripts in libraries of Check Republic „organized by national center of manuscripts and Check Embassy was open.  On March 30 the exhibition “Papers of Georgia’s European history „organized by K. Kekelidze Georgian National Centre of manuscripts and the ministry of foreign affairs of Georgia was open.  On October 31 the exhibition “Korean “steel books” and Georgian manuscripts „organized by K. Kekelidze national center of manuscripts, Korean Republic embassy in Georgia and national parliamentary library of Georgia was open.  Current |
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| **Activity 2.2: assigning grants to purchase, renew and develop research equipment for current research projects by means of the open contest of Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia** |
| **Expected result:** the renewed act with regard to the financing scheme of research universities and centers are prepared (2017) to develop research equipment and programs. The contest is integrated with current research projects and the best project applications are financed |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL. |
| **Fulfillment:** the renewed act connected with the financing scheme to purchase, renew and develop research equipmentfor current research projectsof research universities and centers is prepared by Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia to be discussed by means of the open contest.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Task 3: optimization of career development mechanisms with the aim of developing internationally competitive human resources in the sector of science, technologies and innovations (STI).** |
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| **Activity: 3.1.** operating block funding for scientific units entering higher educational institutions and independent research centers/institutes |
| **Expected result:** supporting research, academic and technical personnel of scientific units entering higher educational institutions and independent research centers/institutes |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** the budget of the scientific research supporting program amounted to 21,662,103.00 Gel. Activities foreseen by the program made considerable impact on gained results, the number of publications increased, the engagement of young people in scientific research work did, too;  There is an opportunity to renew and modernize scientific-research apparatus and purchase low-budgeted components with the help of contests (applied researches, researches with fellow countrymen participating, foundation “center of science and technologies” in Ukraine) administered by the foundation.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 3.2: working out special competitive financing schemes to attract, keep and integrate high-qualified scientists and young cadres in research universities and centers.** |
| **Expected result:** administering and assigning grants for basic research and special projects with the aim of attracting, keeping and integrating young scientists in research universities (Smart EDM laboratories with young scientists having received education abroad and cooperating with international centers). |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** Smart EDM laboratory started to function in Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State university by financing and administering of Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL and also, by cooperating with Iulikh Centre in Germany.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 3.3: ensuring career development mechanisms with the aim of improving scientific productivity of academic and research personnel, with the aim of improving publications and cooperation and with the aim of improving writing skills of research grants in universities and scientific centers (scientific website, trainings and others)** |
| **Expected result:** Grants preparation, declaration and administration of special training grants for high impact factor journals in publication, Horizon 2020, the coordinator of the work package leader, a job as head of the application, the Horizon 2020 grant writing (twinning, grant writing training, targeted g Antioxidant, MSCA implementation of programs (www. Uni.org.ge) Erasmus + National Office of the base). |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** Completed work on the provision of special preparation grant competition, for high impact factor journals in publication, Horizon 2020, the coordinator of the work package leader, a job as head of the application to make an application, the Horizon 2020 grant writing. The competition will be administered in 2018.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 3.4: assisting academic and scientific staff’s, and also students’ productive skills and business thinking on all stages of formal and informal education with the aim of integrating research in production activities and commercializing science.** |
| **Expected result:** grants supporting multilateral cooperation between EaP and BSH countries (scientific grants, mobility, joint conference, season school). Programs of mega intermediary activities (grants, target thematic activities) |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL, Georgian Innovations and technologies Agency – GITA, CRDF Global. |
| **Fulfillment:** within the range of the project EaP Plus several activities supporting the cooperation were held: 1. Within the range of Grants for Networking 4 Georgian scientists’ participation in the intermediary activity was financed. 2. Also, Cluster Grant scheme was declared which supports to get research and production sector closer. There were Webinars held - BSH Webinar on Legal and financial aspects of Horizon 2020, November 7, Webinar focused on research and innovation on the 1st of December 2017 (EaP PLUS project).  With the aim of analyzing the situation between research/science and business and studying existing ties and giving further recommendations, from October, 2017 to June, 2019 the instrument - Policy support Facility – will be implemented by European commission. Within its range, the first Kick-off meeting was held in Brussel in October, 2017 and the first mission was held in December (4-7), 2017. Within the range of the mission there were meetings held with different target groups, among them with bank representatives, with different actors engaged in the sphere of innovation, (including GITA), with Georgian scientists and other target audiences where the existing state between business and science was discussed with the aim of working out further expert visits and final account.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Task 4: assisting to integrate research and educational programs by actively using the infrastructure and human resources of research institutes and centers in the educational programs of research universities** |
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| **Activity 4.1: implementing structured doctoral programs (among them by cooperating with international partners, e.g. structured doctoral programs with the help of joint financing of Volkswagen – Rustaveli Foundation) and financing fundamental scientific projects (FR) with young scientists participating with the aim of supporting high-quality scientific research,** |
| **Expected result:** 4 Georgian-German structured doctoral programs were financed on the basis of grant contest which is administered by Volkswagen and Rustaveli national science Foundation (1.6 million Gel); up to 100 new fundamental science projects will be supported in 2018 and 240 projects of previous years (2014, 2016, 2017) will carry on (12.5 million Gel in 2018; 11.08 million Gel – in 2017). |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL. |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2017 owing to the joint grant contest of Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation and Volkswagen Foundation 4 German – Georgian joint structured doctoral programs were financed. In each of them there are up to 10 doctoral students and minimum 1 postdoctoral student from Georgia are engaged. In 2016 8 structured doctoral programs were financed by Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation; 4 programs out of the 8 were all new structured programs and two of them have already passed program accreditation.  In 2017 86 grant projects were financed for fundamental researches by Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation  Fulfilled |
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| **Activity 4.2: financing joint research probation with international partners (DAAD – scholarships of Rustaveli Foundation for Doctoral and postdoctoral students).** |
| **Expected result:** up to 30 doctoral students’ and up to 30 postdoctoral students’ research probation was financed in German research universities by Rustaveli Foundation’s joint scholarship program. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** 18 doctoral and postdoctoral students were financed in 2017 within the range of Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation and DAAD joint grant contest  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 4.3: financing doctoral students (research grants for doctoral students)** |
| **Expected result:** up to 100 scientific projects of doctoral students were financed for 2 years in Georgian research universities and centers in all scientific fields defined by Eurostat classifier |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** 23 scientists were financed in the young scientists’ research grant contest of Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 4.4: financing doctoral students (research grants for doctoral students)** |
| **Expected result:** up to 100 scientific projects of doctoral students were financed for 2 years in Georgian research universities and centers in all scientific fields defined by Eurostat classifier |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** 40 doctoral students gained financing in Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation doctorate’s educational programs’ contest  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 4.5: financing doctoral students (research grants for doctoral students)** |
| **Expected result:** up to 80 scientific projects doctoral students were financed for 2 years in Georgian research universities and centers in all scientific fields defined by Eurostat classifier. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2017Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation administered a research grant contest for doctoral students whose results will be known at the end of the year.  Current |
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| **Task 5: creating the ruling and quality monitoring system of science, technologies and innovations (STI) sector on the national and institutional levels.** |
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| **Activity 5.2. integrating Key Performance Indicators of science, technologies and innovations (STI) system in educational programs quality assurance and human resource ruling systems** |
| **Expected result:** the preparatory works of the Georgian scientific website is worked out and partly implemented by Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation,  Access to ELSEVIER and Clarivate Analytics database is implemented and Scopus, Web of Science, SciVal Finder, Derwent Analysis is used to assess STI. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** grant management unified system is complete, from 2018 grant administration will be carried on-line.  **A** treaty **is** signedwith Clarivate Analytics according to which Scopus, Web of Science, SciVal Finder, Derwent Analysis can be used by 14 public and private institutions.  Current |
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| **Activity 5.3. assisting the development of science management professional system in research universities and centers (reorganizing science management structured units such as research office or research administering unit financed by exterior resources, technologies transfer office, preparing documentation and regulations of relevant policy with regard to intellectual property rights and knowledge transfer, science research ethics and relevance).** |
| **Expected result:** target grants for state universities: creating science management professional system on the basis of universities (research office, research integrate unit technologies transfer office, NCURA, EARMA membership pays, institutional development, regulations support). |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** on December 1, 2017 **Shota** Rustaveli National science Foundation along with Georgian universities and public structures signed the treaty with LLC “Clarivate”. Within the treaty, institutions having signed the treaty and also, Georgian National Academy of Sciences, Agricultural Academy and the Ministry of Education and Science will have access to the collection of “Web of Sciences” from December 8, 2017 where 16000 leading scientific journals in all the spheres of science are indexed.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 5.4. supporting cooperation with EARMA (the European Association for Research Managers and Administrators, Euro Union) and NCURA (National Council of University Research Administrators, the USA) and the training of research managers’ professional development in universities and centers.** |
| **Expected result:** the personnel of university science development units are members of EARMA (the European Association for Research Managers and Administrators, Euro Union) and NCURA (National Council of University Research Administrators, the USA)**,** having trainings and cooperating with the aim of developing their university science management |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2017 preparatory works were planned by National Foundation and the Ministry of Education and Science with EARMA an NCURA about the training of research managers’ professional development in universities and centers  Current |
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| **Task: 6. Supporting strategic priority fields and relevant financing in the fields of science, technologies and innovations (STI), aiming at the country’s sustainable development.** |
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| **Activity 6.1. defining the country’s strategic priorities by strengthening the dialogue between those interested in science, development and innovations system, among them with engagement of government, academic, state and private sectors** |
| **Expected result**: there are steadily dialogues held between different sides concerned with research and innovations council, the ministry of education and science, the ministry of economics and sustainable development and the agency of innovations and technologies of Georgia, the preparatory works of defining the country’s strategic priorities have been carried out. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** during the year of 2017, the preparatory works to define the country’s strategic priorities have been carried out by strengthening the dialogue between those interested in science, development and innovations system. The first working meeting with representatives of various departments was planned in February 2018.  Current |
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| **Activity 6.2.: working out strategic priorities financing schemes and diversification (among them financing scientific-technological innovative researches with applying research and science diaspora)** |
| **Expected result:** the applying research grant was audited anda new grant was declared on definite strategic priorities. Up to 5 research projects oriented on society’s challenges were financed and are being implemented with the cooperation between the research university and industry, or with the partnership/consortium between the research university/center and private sector |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** to study existing situation analysis and existing relationships between research/science and business and to give further recommendations, from October 2017 to June 2018 Euro Commission supported mechanism Policy Support Facility – will be implemented. Within it, the first preparatory (Kick-off) meeting was held in Brussel in October 2017 and the first mission in December (4-7) 2017. Within the mission there were meetings held with various target groups, among them with different representatives of the ministry of Education and science, the ministry of economics and sustainable development, banks, with different representatives engaged in the sphere of innovations and technologies development, (including GITA), with Georgian scientists and other target audience where three target topics were discussed: defining field priorities with the aim of increased financing in the system of science, technologies and innovations and tying up with the goals of economic strategic development, strengthening the ties between nonscientific sector (private sector/business, industry, small and medium-sized enterprises; public sector, non-government sector) and between scientific researches and institutions/groups carrying out research; the question of implementation of block funding of research universities and research institutes/centers integrated in them and tying up financing formula with university/centers performance based block funding, systemic collecting and analysis on the institutional and national level. Studying existing state and analysis of needs started with the aim of working out expert visits and final account. In 2017 a new financing scheme was worked out – co-financing grant programmed for start-ups (in the amount of 100,000 Gel), which is planned to be declared in the first quarter of 2018. Also, the grant website has been created representing the automated system of grant administration.  Current |
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| **Activity 6.3.: supporting the policy of innovation and translative researches with technologies transfer supporting mechanisms in research universities (with the cooperation with the national center of intellectual property rights – “SAKPATENTI)” and with the Georgian Agency of innovations and technologies).** |
| **Expected result:** trainings and workshops have been implemented in main research universities and centers with regard to the questions of IPR and technologies transfer policy and regulation policy development. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** the renewed regulation of applying research grant contest with a new conception was worked out, introduced to scientific society and discussed where strengthening the cooperation between science and private sector is focused on, interdisciplinary, interinstitutional and intersectoral research with the perspective of further commercialization. The representatives of the agency of innovations and technologies (GITA) and the Georgian National Agency of Intellectual Property Rights (SAKTATENTI) are actively engaged in the process of assessment and discussion. The conception is approved by the international coordinative council of the foundation ( the members are the minister, the deputy minister, the head of the prime-minister administrative staff, the representatives of leading research agencies and universities of EU member countries among them the former director of CERN, the former vice-president of ERG, the director of stem cells center, Lunda University, the chairman of the administrative board of doctoral studies commission of European Universities association , the member of Oxford University Administrative board).  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 6.4. supporting institutional training schemes in universities and research centers with the aim of development of research results commercialization process (with the cooperation with** **the Georgian National Agency of Intellectual Property Rights - SAKTATENTI and the agency of innovations and technologies (GITA)** |
| **Expected result**: trainings and workshops are prepared and implemented by cooperating with international partners in research universities and centers with regard to IPR and technologies transfer |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2017 the preparatory works were carried out to hold trainings with the aim of development of research results commercialization process  Current |
| **Activity 6.5. encouraging scientific research and industry cooperation in science, technologies and innovations system (STI) with the help of special target activities and financing schemes.** |
| **Expected result**: preparing and financing special intermediary activities with the aim of supporting the cooperation between academy and industry, academy and private sector. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2017 the preparatory works to work out special target activities and financing schemes to encourage the cooperation between scientific research and industry in science, technologies and innovations system (STI)were being carried out  Current |
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| **Task 7. Working out and implementing science, technologies and innovations system (STI) programs and financing schemes oriented on protecting and popularizing Georgian culture and national identity** |
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| **Activity 7.1. working out financing schemes with the open contest with the aim of researching and popularizing Georgian cultural and material inheritance** |
| **Expected result:** administering and declaring grants to research Georgian cultural and material inheritance existing abroad and inside the country. 8 grants are assigned on research universities by cooperating with international research centers and institutes. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2017 4 research projects were financed by Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation within the range of grant contest for Georgian spiritual and material inheritance existing in Georgia and abroad.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 7.2. supporting target international conferences and season schools for popularization of Georgia-learning sciences.** |
| **Expected result:** the order about the grant for target international conferences and season schools for popularization of Georgia-learning sciences is renewed, grant contest is declared and 2 international activities are annually financed with the aim of popularization of Georgia-learning sciences. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment**: the document package regulating the renewed contest was prepared.  Current |
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| **Activity 7.3. developing science centers and Georgia–learning programs.** |
| **Expected result:** declaring the contest and assigning 5 scholarships in the sciences teaching about Georgia for research visit to Oxford University |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** in 2017 2 young scientists were financed within the range of the Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation and Oxford University joint Georgia-learning programs.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 7.4. preparing and implementing the target project with the aim of creating the interdisciplinary center of Georgia-learning sciences (on the basis of interinstitutional and intersectoral cooperation including all the relevant fields, such as archaeology, culture, history, literature, ecology, agriculture, geology, geography, biodiversity, social sciences and others with training components and Georgian virtual museum).** |
| **Expected result:** the conception of the international interdisciplinary research center of Georgia-learning sciences was worked out and discussed with the relevant sides concerned (ministries, research universities and institutes/centers). The guide of the development was worked out/ |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** preparatory works are being carried out with scientific society and different departments.  Current |
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| **Strategic task 2: strengthening the role, status and value of science, technologies and innovations (STI) in the country and its positioning as strategically important, national priority for the country.** |
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| **Task 1: popularization of science, technologies and innovations (STI) on every stage of formal and informal education.** |
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| **Activity: 1.1. developing the science festival program and its integration with international science festivals (e.g. science festival “science night” existing within the range of EU research and innovations framework program “Horizon 2020”)** |
| **Expected result:** organizing scientific activities and seminars with famous Georgian scientists, workshops for the science popularization within the annual science festival. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** in September 2017 the foundation took part in the science festival with a number of activities, among them Elsevier Informational day and working seminar, lectures of Georgian scientists working in CERN, the festive ceremonial of awarding the scientist of the year; from September 24 2017 through October 4 science and innovations international festival 2017 was held. Up to 60 enterprises participated in the festival. More than 250 different scientific and cognitive-entertainment activities were introduced. The festival was held in 7 Georgian towns: Tbilisi, Telavi, Gori, Akhaltsikhe, Kutaisi, Senaki and Batumi.  Fulfilled |
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| **Activity 1.2. annually assigning premiums and awards to the best scientist and scientists’ group of the year.** |
| **Expected result:** up to 20 famous scientists were financed for 2 years in the fields of science, agriculture, social sciences, engineering, humanitarian science and Georgia-learning sciences on the basis of the open contest which is annually declared and administered by Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** 6 scientists were awarded for the best scientist of 2017 within the annual Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation contest  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 1.3. implementing target programs and projects in secondary schools with the aim of the popularization of science, technologies and innovations (STI) (e.g. by cooperating with popular international science publications, National Geographic, public lectures, activities, campaigns).** |
| **Expected result:** wide broadcasting best scientific results on TV and on the radio on the basis of the cooperation between **Shota** Rustaveli National science Foundation and National Geographic (Georgia) with the aim of the STI popularization. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** 3 radios programs were prepared initiated by Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation and the foundation staff participated in 7 TV programs with the aim of the STI system popularization. In 2017 negotiations and preparatory works were carried out to cooperate with the Journal National Geographic, about the best scientific projects popularization.  Fulfilled |
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| **Task 2. Supporting the development of research competences and innovative thinking, scientific ethics popularization on every level of formal and informal education.** |
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| **Activity 2.1. supporting financing schemes for young inventors and researchers in the form of the open grant for pupils (“Leonardo da Vinci” contest) and teachers of schools and higher educational institutions with pupils engaged in joint research projects.** |
| **Expected result:** for 2 years up to 8 prizes were assigned to young inventors and explorers within the open grant contest “Leonardo da Vinci” administered by Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation. For 2 years up to 15 projects were financed on the basis of the annual grant contest for school pupils and academic personnel of higher educational institutions. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation. |
| **Fulfillment:** 5 projects were financed in Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation researches with pupils’ participation in 2017 grant contest, 4 prizes were assigned in pupils’ explorer-inventors’ contest “Leonardo da Vinci”.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Strategic task 3: Georgian science, technologies and innovations (STI) system internationalization and financing resources diversification.** |
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| **Task 1. Increasing Georgian explorers’ and institutions’ participation in EU research and innovations frame programs (Horizon 2020) and other international agencies financing schemes.** |
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| **Activity 1.1: working out preparatory schemes for grants (informational days, consultations, trainings) with the aim of supporting Georgian scientists’ participation in Horizon 2020 and other international frame programs.** |
| **Expected result:** the preparatory activity for up to 10 grants was carried out with the aim of participating in the Horizon 2020 grant contest to support creating consortiums.  Various informational days and workshops were held on special Horizon 2020 thematic questions connected with grant contests (by cooperating with projects ERC, MSCA, SPIRE, etc. EaP PLUS).  Workshops were held for local people concerned, explorers with scientific diaspora being engaged (by cooperating with EaP PLUS). |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation |
| **Fulfillment:** in total 17 informational days and international conferences dedicated to Horizon 2020 program , to the participation regulations, strategic advice and declared contests were held for the period of 2017. With regard to Horizon 2020 program, more than 100 individual consultation was carried out daily.  The following activities are worth mentioning: on December 17 2017 the international conference “Georgia’s associated status in the context of Marie Sklodowska-Curie’s programs”, in which EU representatives and the Georgian explorers financed by this program took part. On April 21 2017 by the joint organization of European research council and Georgian National science Foundation, an international regional conference “ERC – Supporting world-famous explorers” was held and in which along with high-ranking officials of European research council scientific field representatives of 6 countries of eastern partnership took part. On September 27 2017 ERG informational day was held; on November 21 2017 informational day about 2018-2020 working program of Horizon 2020 was held and in which representatives of EaP Plus Project consortium from RCISD, Horizon 2020 contact persons and coordinator took part. On December 13-14 2017 Horizon 2020 informational day in the field of power engineering. On December 20 2017 informational day “Europe’s cooperation in science and technologies - COST was held and about other opportunities of attracting finances from Horizon 2020”.  fulfilled |
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| **Activity 1.2. strengthening Horizon 2020 national contact persons’ network.** |
| **Expected result:** supporting effective communication and cooperation, introducing a piloting a new conception of “NCPs Online” information and of the database. NCP training within the EaP PLUS project. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL. |
| **Fulfillment:** on November 20 2017 national contact persons’ (NCP) meeting organized by the foundation was held where the possibilities of NCP network strengthening and future cooperation were discussed;  On the Horizon 2020 informational day held on November 21 NCP introduced reports about 2018-2020 working programs and declared contests.  Marie Sklodowska-Curie’s national contact person passed 2 trainings and is engaged in Marie Sklodowska-Curie’s national contact persons’ network supporting project and is intensively passing trainings.  European research council (ERC) national contact persons participated in national contact persons’ seminar organized by European Council.  According to the same principle, ICT, health, power engineering contact persons and those of other scientific fields participated in the meetings dedicated to contact persons strengthening.  Horizon 2020 program national coordinator participated in the Horizon 2020 coordinators’ working meeting where examples of the best practice were introduced.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 1.3: increasing scientific society’s awareness of Horizon 2020 and other framework programs by making a special website and by using all the possible instructions.** |
| **Expected result:** working out and piloting technological means of data distribution connected with contest declaration, programs, other possibilities.  ERASMUS+ cooperating with national office about MSCA grant contest and programs with the aim of spreading in Georgian higher education institutions, using ERS website and other online means, spreading information on EaP PLUS website by means of EaP PLUS project platform. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** the information declared about contests by Horizon 2020 program is published on the Horizon 2020 Georgian website and in the social network – [www.horizon2020.ge](http://www.horizon2020.ge) & Fb: Horizon 2020 Georgia. Besides individual consultations and those made by email, consultations are spread for those concerned.  Besides electronic information about Horizon 2020 working program and contests, information is spread all the time about EU framework programs, activities, webinars by means of the foundation website and social networking. Besides, with the aim of increasing the awareness of the mentioned possibilities for the scientific society, Horizon 2020 new working program is put on the foundation website in main novelties and informational day’s materials carried out about Horizon 2020 (including presentations) are available by means of the specially created link.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Task 2: supporting instruments for international, long-term cooperation and implementing the programs in Georgian science, technologies and innovations (STI) system.** |
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| **Activity 2.1. identifying clusters of strong scientific fields (consortiums of scientific – public – business sector) and supporting the implementation of steady cooperative relationship with famous scientists abroad and relevant scientific centers. (schemes of research period of trainee, ERA Chairs, ERC PI invited explorers and others.)** |
| **Expected result:** analyzing international and national scientific grants according to the fields and subfields, also according to international partners.  Administering bilateral programs according to joint research projects, mobility and analysis of scientific activities cooperation (CNR, CNRS PICS, STCU, ISTC, TUBITAK etc.)  Access to electronic publications and relevant databases, also using analytical means by Georgian higher educational institutions and centers, the ministry of education and science, Sakpatenti, national academy of sciences, national academy of agricultural sciences (ELSEVIER, Clarivate Analytics databases) |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL, research universities |
| **Fulfillment:** bilateral grant contests were administered by Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation in 2017 with science and technologies center in the Ukraine, jointly with Italian, French and Turkish foundations. The treaty was made official with Clarivate Analytics owing to which 14 institutions will have access to scientific databases (Web of Science and others).  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 2.2. increasing the science international mobility, attraction support of famous foreign scientists and science diaspora leading representatives to Georgian research universities and centers (DI, SMART, Lab projects and others).** |
| **Expected result:** paying annual taxes for international programs (CERN, DUBNA) to support the participation of Georgian scientists in international research projects and the increase in access to infrastructure and other means.  Paying Horizon 2020 annual taxes. Providing equal access to grant contests declared within EU research and innovations frame program for Georgian scientists. Implementing local grants with the aim of supporting the scientists’ mobility (travelling grants in international conferences, season schools, participation in intermediary activities.)  The project GN4-2 Research and Education Networking – GÉANT was financed by the program “Horizon 2020” the aim of which is perfect functioning of Europe’s scientific-educational network GÉANT, implementing and developing of networking services and setting up new services.  Within the project, Georgian universities (Tbilisi State University, Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi State Medical University and others) are included in GÉANT network and the scientists of these universities own a high-speed and reliable connection with European leading science centers.  I would especially mention the following out of networking services of association “GRENA”:   * Reaction to computer incidents directed by “GRENA” computer safety reaction group CERT-GE. The group carries out analysis of scientific-educational organizations’ traffic by means of reacting to different ciber incidents assigning the information about infected systems/network exterior IP sites. CERT-GE is a member of European CERT –s union (Trusted Introducer - <https://www.trusted-introducer.org/directory/teams/cert-ge.html>). * Protection of DDoS from ciber attacks carried out by Black Hole Community and by the detection system of ciber incidents Intrusion Detection system. * Eduroam educational roaming - safe wireless internet – link allowing registered users to use the Internet in 85 counties of the world. * GRID (distributed Computing) distributed computing system included in European GRID infrastructure allowing groups of scientists to use local and European computing resources (it is not directly connected with this project but uses its infrastructure.   Fulfilled |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL, research universities |
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| **Activity 2.3. supporting the organization of wide-scale intermediary activities in Georgia in the sphere of technologies and innovations** |
| **Expected result:** administering a special grant contest for research organizations and assigning grants to organize international activities (conferences, season schools, symposiums). Up to 20 activities were financed in all the fields defined by Eurostat classifier.  Holding special intermediary activities on the issues of priority fields/thematic questions (especially in connection with Horizon 2020) |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL, research universities |
| **Fulfillment:** the regulation of grant contest is under preparation  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 2.4. supporting the return and integration of young Georgian scientists, graduates or those working in international research centers and universities (Brain gain, repatriation schemes).** |
| **Expected result:** **There are grant contests declared to attract young Georgian scientists, graduates or those working in international research centers and universities** |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL. |
| **Fulfillment**: during the year of 2017 a new financing scheme of research carried out by our fellow countrymen working abroad is worked out and will be submitted to the ministry of education and science to be discussed  current |
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| **Activity 2.5: supporting to use other international opportunities (such as e.g. Inclusion in COST activities, participation in JRC (joint research center) programs and in FRANET (European research Net) activities).** |
| **Expected result**: organizing informational days and workshops mainly for those concerned and potential beneficiaries with the aim of assigning information about COST, JRC, ERA NET, JTI and JRI activities. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Fulfillment:** Georgian scientists with the status of EU neighboring countries are included COST actions (9). It must be mentioned that there were COST actions informational days held in Tbilisi state university (October) and in Tbilisi state medical university (December). The information about COST actions was published on Horizon 2020 program Georgian website and sent to relevant target groups by email.  Partly fulfilled |
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| **Activity 2.6. preparing and setting up international research centers in Georgia (which will support joint, bilateral and many-sided, inter disciplinary, intersectoral cooperation research projects), active inclusion of international partners/centers in relevant trainings.** |
| **Expected result:** the conception of interdisciplinary international research center of Georgia-learning sciences has been worked out, discussed with those concerned and potential international partners. The center guide is worked out and agreed with all relevant state and private organizations. |
| **The department responsible:** The Ministry of Education and Science LEPL; Shota Rustaveli National science Foundation LEPL |
| **Expected result:** there are consultations carried out with the ministry of education and science and with other departments in connection with setting up international research centers. |