

**International Methodological Conference**  
**Tbilisi State University, Center for Social Science**  
**Setting up the PhD Programs in the Context of Bologna Process**  
**Tbilisi, 25-26 June 2005**

***Conference Report & Memorandum***

A joint conference of the Tbilisi State University and Center for Social Sciences was held on 25-26 June 2005. Aim of the conference was elaboration of an action plan for the development of PhD programs in Georgia.

**Preamble**

According to the Law on Higher Education, doctoral programs should be introduced in the Georgian higher education institutions as a third level of higher education from 2007-2008.

Georgia joined Bologna process in May 19, 2005 and thus became a member of the European Higher Education Area. Considering European standards of teaching and research, setting up the third level of higher education and development of doctoral programs in Georgia means development of a principally new type of educational activity. Goal of an international conference “Setting up the PhD Programs in the Context of Bologna Process” (TSU, 2005) was on the one hand, analyze of current situation in Georgia, and on the other hand, to share existing experience of American and European Doctoral education tradition.

Prior to the conference, with the support of the Center for Social Sciences (CSS, Tbilisi) and Open Society Institute (OSI, Budapest), work on the project, which envisages analyzing of the problems connected with introduction of Doctoral Studies and working out of the relevant recommendations, started. In the framework of this project, the “PhD Concept Paper” was developed. Project duration was 10 months (1.03 – 31.12.2004) and it involved several stages:

- On the I stage analyze of the existing academic degree systems in Georgia and other countries (Russia, Hungary, Slovenia, Germany, USA and Baltic countries) was conducted.
- On the II stage the Conceptual Paper was developed – necessary steps for the PhD introduction have been determined, correlation between old and new systems of academic degrees, academic content of PhD programs, institutional preconditions for the transfer to PhD etc.
- On the III stage of the project Concept Paper has been discussed with the involvement of all parties interested. The representatives of the leading higher educational institutions (Tbilisi State University, Georgian Technical University, Caucasus Business School, Tbilisi State Medical University etc.), the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Higher Education Institutions Academy of Sciences and NGOs partook of discussion and elaboration of the concept. It must be noted that presentation of the Concept Paper was held on the international seminar “Reconstructing the Doctorate in former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe” ([www.ceu.hu/crc/rec\\_doc.html](http://www.ceu.hu/crc/rec_doc.html)), held in November 2004 in Budapest, Hungary.

After the local and international discussions the Concept Paper became its final shape and was distributed for the discussion to the higher educational institutions, research institutes of Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Education and Science and non-governmental organizations. An english version of the document was sent to the foreign universities, namely to the Central

European University (Hungary), University of Liverpool (UK), London School of Economics (UK), Open Society Institute and independent experts.

Many very interesting comments were received both from georgian and also foreign colleagues. For the elaboration of final conceptual view on doctoral programs organization of an international conference was decided.

### **Confrence Program:**

#### **Saturday, June, 25, 2005**

09:30 – Registration of the conference participants.

10:00 – Speech of welcome. Rusudan Lortkipanidze, TSU Rector.

10:20 – Lika Glonti. PhD Programs – Georgia: Current Situation, Future Perspectives.

10:40 – Kenneth Roberts. PhD: The UK Model..

11:00 – Tamaz Gamkrelidze. President Georgian Academy of Science

11:20 – Questions, Discussion.

#### **11:30-12:00 – Break**

12:00 – Luis Pedraja. Accrediting Doctoral Programs into the 21<sup>th</sup> Century: Assessing Challenges and Strategies for Quality Assurance in Graduate Programs

12:30 – Voldemar Tomusk. Bologna Process: PhD Programs and Funding

13:00 – Virjina Devis Nordin. Academic freedom and PhD: some history and current practice.

13:30 – Bela Tsipuria. Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia.

#### **14:00-15:00 – Break**

15:00-17:00 – Working in groups:

- PhD Programs Structure, Format: What and How to Teach.
- Funding and Institutional Frames.
- Bologna Process: International Contacts, Work Market.

#### **Sunday, June, 26**

10:00 – First group presentation: PhD Programs Structure, Format: What and How to Teach.

10:30 – Second group presentation: Funding and Institutional Frames.

11:00 – Third group presentation: Bologna Process: International Contacts, Work Market.

13:00 – Closing the conference

### **List of participants:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Kenneth Roberts	University of Liverpool, UK
Voldemar Tomusk	Open Society Institute, Budapesht, Hungary
Virjina Devis Nordin	University of Kentucky, USA
Luis Pedraja	Middle State Commission on Higher Education, Philadenphia, USA
Archil Samadashvili	Ministry of Education and Science
Bela Tsipuria	Ministry of Education and Science
Shorena Japaridze	Ministry of Education and Science

Tina Bochorishvili	Ministry of Education and Science
Lela Maisuradze	Ministry of Education and Science
Tamaz Gamkrelidze	President of Georgian Academy of Science
Buba Kudava	Tbilisi State University, Head of History Department
Gia Alibegashvili	Tbilisi State University, Head of Philology Department
Gocha Japaridze	Tbilisi State University, Dear Faculty of humanities
David Kereselidze	Tbilisi State University, Dean Faculty of Law
David Aprasidze	Tbilisi State University, Dean faculty of Social and Political Science
Vladimer Asatiani	Tbilisi State University, Head of Fine Art Department
Temur Akhobadze	Tbilisi State University, Head of Computer Sciecene Department
Ivane Bokeria	Tbilisi State University, Dean Faculty of Medicine
Ilia Tavkhelidze	Tbilisi State University, Coordinator of Science and Mathematics
Kakha Kordzaia	Tbilisi State University, Head of Administration and Economic affairs
Levan Gordeziani	Tbilisi State University, Deputy Rector
Lika Glonti	Tbilisi State University, Head of TSU Quality Assurance
Marine Chitashvili	Tbilisi State University, Head of TSU Academic Department
Merab Eliashvili	Tbilisi State University, Head of TSU Research Department
Nugzar Skhirtladze	Tbilisi State University, TSU registrar
Rusudan Lordkipanidze	Tbilisi State University, Rector
Henri Karashvili	Tbilisi State University, Head of Economics Department
Gia Dzneladze	Tbilisi State University, Rectors' Advisor
Mamuka Bichashvili	Tbilisi State University/CSS, Head of Philosophy Department
George Khelashvili	Tbilisi State University/CSS, Academic Program Director
David Paichadze	Tbilisi State University, Head of Journalism Department
Roin Kavrelishvili	TSU Javakheti Branch
Zurab Kiknadze	Ilia Chavchavadze Tbilisi State Institute of Language and Culture
Tengiz Urushadze	Tbilisi State Agrarian University
Zaza Avaliani	Tbilisi State Medical University
Irine Kvachadze	Tbilisi State Medical University
Tamaz Kupatadze	Georgian Technical University
Q. Kupatadze	Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani State Pedagogical University
Sergo Vardosanidze	Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani State Pedagogical University
Goderdzi Vachridze	Akaki Tsereteli Kutaisi State University
Ioseb Asatiani	N. Muskhelishvili Kutaisi State Technical University
Lali Zakaradze	Shota Rustaveli Batumi State University
George Gotsiridze	Telavi State University
Lia Buadze	Ministry of Culture
George Gigauri	Institute of Mountain Forestry
Lali Bakradze	Institute of Civil Society
G.Gabrighidze	Institute of Construction Mechanics and Seismostability
George Chorgolashvili	EPPM
Alexandre Melnikov	Black Sea International University
Berdzenadze	Press Center of Georgian Parliament
Nana Loria	Tbilisi State Conservatory

**Working groups, presentations** – intensive discussions were held in the two working groups: 1) PhD Programs Structure and Format: What and How to Teach; Funding and Institutional Frames; and 2) Bologna Process: International Contacts, Labor Market.

As a result of the conference, recommendations have been worked out, which are worth considering for the successful implementation of Doctoral Programs in Georgia in general, and particularly at the Tbilisi State University.

**Conclusions and recommendations of the conference were summed up in the memorandum.**

Although the main purpose of the conference was discussion of problems connected with the implementation of doctoral programs in Georgia and their future perspectives in general, a memorandum was dedicated to the solutions of those problems in case of the Tbilisi State University.

# **MEMORANDUM**

*of an international methodological conference*

## **Setting up the PhD Programs in the Context of Bologna Process**

1. The ***strategic plan of the university development*** shall be elaborated, and goals and objectives of doctoral programs shall be reflected in short- and long-term perspective. The strategic plan shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the Bologna Seminar on “Doctoral Programmes for the European Knowledge Society” (Salzburg, 3-5 February 2005). Embedded in institutional strategy, functioning of the doctoral programs for the 2009-2010 shall be ensured according to the standards of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and European Research Area (ERA). ***Professional commissions*** shall be involved in the development of the strategic plan. Their main task will be monitoring of the development of PhD programs in corresponding fields of study, determination of possible employment perspectives, integration in the professional community etc.
2. ***Evaluation of existing resources*** – university shall ensure evaluation of both material and intellectual resources in order to determine priorities and guarantee the development of quality doctoral programs. As noticed at the Salzburg Seminar, resource evaluation has a crucial role in the development of PhD programs. Evaluation shall be carried parallel to the development of university strategy.
3. Two types of doctoral programs – ***Doctor of Philosophy and Professional Doctorate*** shall be defined and differentiated.
4. Standards of ***quality assurance service*** (according to the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education – ENQA) shall be main criteria for the development of doctoral programs.
5. Content of the ***teaching component of the doctoral programs*** shall be defined. In the long-term perspective of the university development, teaching component of PhD programs can be changed. The importance of two main teaching components on the initial stage was underlined at the conference:
  - ***High school pedagogy*** – The study of high school pedagogy and education management is of utmost importance in doctoral programs. The future Doctors must learn, how to teach a discipline, how to research and present etc. as Doctors are future professors and teachers in the universities. University professors shall be able not only to generate new knowledge, but also to transform it through teaching. Besides high quality research, Doctor shall ensure transfer of knowledge to the next generations.
  - ***Management and communication*** – Aim of the PhD programs is preparing future leaders, and not only for the academic career. Doctors can work in industry, government and in any other field of professional activity. Correspondingly, they must be able to deal with the people of different professions as well as to head crucial interdisciplinary projects. Doctors shall be aware of practical importance of their work.

6. University welcomes and encourages close **collaboration** with research centers and institutes both within the country and internationally, in order to ensure high quality of doctoral programs and support **mobility** of doctoral students. Effective collaboration with partner universities is a necessary precondition for the development of an academic content of PhD programs. Very important is also involvement of foreign experts in the review process of doctoral publications and/or theses – one of the main aims of the doctoral programs is achievement of international recognition, as especially recorded at a conference.
  
7. **Sustainable funding** is one of the necessary preconditions for the development of doctoral programs. According to the Law on Higher Education, new rules for financing doctoral programs shall be developed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia before January 2007. Before Ministry of Education and Science develops this funding model, university departments shall present calculations of costs of doctoral programs, which shall be reflected in the governmental financing model.

In October 2005 Tbilisi State University launches work on the development of the new doctoral programs according to the above-mentioned principles.